Alabama's Top Kluxer Leaves Legislature Sad And Angry

By JOE AZBELL

Silver-haired Dr. E. P. Pruitt, of Birmingham, head of Alabama Ku Klu Klansmen, left Montgomery at 11 a.m. yesterday with a sad look.

The 71-year-old chairman of the board of governors of the Federated Ku Klu Klan of Alabama, Inc., saw the House judiciary committee give its stamp of approval to a Senate-passed anti-masking bill.

The bill would make the wearing of masks, except by children and on specified occasions, a criminal offense.

When the committee okayed the measure, Dr. Pruitt nervously slammed his massive fist down on a House chamber desk, where he had silently watched the hearing, and ambled with defiance from the capitol. He paused for a second in the corridors to greet an old friend, with whom he had worked when he had been a state doctor at Kilby Prison.

Outside the capitol building, the giant-sized Klansman, shook his fist at the capitol dome. "We'll be back," he rumbled. "We are going to win this fight for our American rights."

During the committee hearing, Dr. Pruitt told a reporter:

"Senator Henry Mize, of Tuscaloosa, has dug his grave and buried himself politically by sponsoring the bill. That boy washed himself up politically when he introduced that bill. He is too young to know anything about the race problem anyway. Yes, siree, that boy is all washed up."

Asked why he didn't testify at the hearing, he quickly answered:

"I don't believe in words and pretty speeches. I believe in action."

He said, "The Klan is bigger than most realize. I don't know how many members we have. If I did, I wouldn't tell you. But we got one of our biggest klaverns right here in Montgomery. It has some prominent and intelligent men for members, too."

The Birmingham medical practitioner, who is slightly deaf, said: "If the anti-masking bill becomes law, Klansmen will respect it—like we respect all laws. We will stop wearing our masks in public. But we will not stop wearing our masks at our meetings and ceremonies and any other time where we can wear them legally."

"We intend to fight this bill all the way up the ladder of courts," he continued. "It is discriminatory and unconstitutional."

"Another thing," he added "we intend to make certain everyone else observes the law. That includes Catholic nuns and members of secret orders. If they try to go down the street with their faces covered; we are going to make certain they come under this law."

There was one Catholic nun present at the hearing.

Dr. Pruitt added:

"I don't have anything against Catholics or secret orders. This bill discriminates against all of us, including those organizations."

Dr. Pruitt said he had been a member of old Knights of the Ku Klux Klan.

"Hugo Black and Bibb Graves were two of our best Klansmen back in those days," he said. "I have sat in more than one meeting with those gentlemen."

He reflected for a second:

"You know that man—Bull Connor up in Birmingham. He is a good white man, who is from Dallas County, but he isn't a member of the Klan. He cusses the Klan at lot."

Favors Dixiecrats

Questioned about the Dixiecrat affiliations with the Ku Klux Klan, Dr. Pruitt said:

"The Klan is wholeheartedly for the Dixiecrat movement. The Klan consists of state righters, who are white men and not ashamed to defend their rights to be white men. The Dixiecrat movement is a good thing for the protection of the South and the Klan is for it 100 per cent."

He declared that his father lost a leg in the War Between the States defending states' rights.

"The Klan is made of red-blooded Christian Americans who want their posterity to be red-blooded Christian Americans," he said.

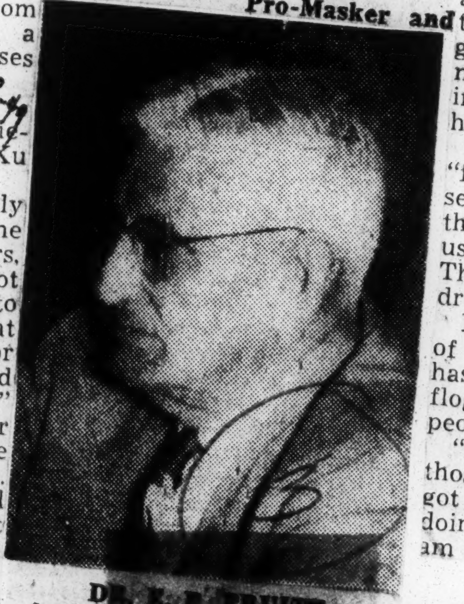
Dr. Pruitt almost jumped out of his seat, when asked if the Klan still believed in lynchings and mob terrorism:

"I don't look like any damn hoodlum—do I?," he asked, "I am a white man and a gentleman, and I know where I stand on the Negro question. The Klan doesn't believe in lynchings and mob terrorism. Those days are gone."

When the spokesmen for the VFW and American Legion testified at the hearing in favor of the anti-masking bill, Dr. Pruitt whispered, "Those (testimonies) are just the sentiments of the leaders. Many members of those organizations are in complete sympathy with the Klan. I know. Some of our Klansmen are members of those organizations."

Over his protest, an Advertiser photographer took Dr. Pruitt's picture. "If these damn photographers were to try to take my picture in Atlanta," he said, "they would get the hell knocked out of them. They just don't respect a man's word when he says he doesn't want to be photographed."

SEN. HENRY MIZE
Pro-Masker and



DR. E. P. PRUITT
Anti-Masker

Welcomes Klansmen

The bespectacled doctor, while he did not testify, extended the Klan grip and welcomed each Klansman who entered the House chamber. To one member, he smiled and said, "We are not quitters. We got a fight on our hands and we are going to win it."

He said the Federated Klan has klaverns in almost all of Alabama's 67 counties and that "membership drives are underway." He denied that his organization has any affiliation with the Original Southern Klans, Inc. of Columbus and Macon, Ga. He said "they are different breed entirely."

He claimed he did not know if the Original Southern Klans, Inc. had any klaverns in Alabama. "I have heard that they have, but I don't know."

In another interview yesterday, the Rev. Alvin Horn, of near Talladega, a self admitted Klan member and organizer, said that the Federated Ku Klux Klan of Alabama and the Association of Georgia Klans would combine into a national convocation "at the proper time."

"The proper time is not too far in the future," he added.

He said the two organizations were not affiliated at the present time, but he said they did meet together occasionally. Horn told the Judiciary Committee yesterday of a meeting of the two Klans at Stone Mountain, near Atlanta, Ga., the night a Navy veteran said he was flogged in the Birmingham area. This national convocation, apparently would not take in the Original Southern Klans, Inc. of Georgia.

Dr. Pruitt said he was born at Pleasant Hill in Dallas County and was raised up in Montgomery and Lowndes counties. He named several pieces of property in Montgomery which he said his father had once owned.

"Two of my boys," he said, "fought in the last war to preserve freedom as Americans. Now the government is trying to tell us we are not so free after all. They want to tell us how to dress."

He denied that the members of the Federated Ku Klux Klan has been administering the floggings and beatings of white people around Birmingham.

"And Negroes aren't wearing those hoods," he confided, "I got my own ideas about who is doing this mob terrorism—but I am not talking."

Anti-Masking Measure

MONTGOMERY, Ala., June 18—Senate Bill 155, by Sen. Henry H. Mize, Tuscaloosa, outlawing use of the mask except in certain cases, provides as follows:

Sec. 1—No person over 16 years of age shall appear or enter upon a lane, walk, alley, street, road, public way, highway of this state or upon the public property of the state or of any municipality or county in this state while wearing a mask or other device which conceals his identity; nor shall any person demand entrance or admission to enter upon the premises or into the enclosure or house of any other person while wearing a mask or device which conceals his identity; nor shall any such person, while wearing a mask or device which conceals his identity, participate in any meeting or demonstration upon the private property of another unless he shall have first obtained the written permission of the owner and the occupant of such property.

Sec. 2—The provisions of this act shall not affect the right of any person to appear in public wearing a mask or costume which conceals the wearer's identity while participating in the celebration of a legal holiday.

Sec. 3—Any person who violates this act shall be guilty of misdemeanor and upon conviction shall be punished by a fine of not more than $500 or by imprisonment in the County Jail for a period not to exceed 12 months.

Sec. 4—The provisions of this act are severable. If any part is declared unconstitutional or invalid, such declaration shall not affect the remainder

Sec. 5—All laws or parts of laws in conflict with this act are repealed.

Sec. 6—This act shall become effective immediately upon its passage or approval by the governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.

Anti-Masking Bill Now Law; Governor Signs Measure To Halt Hooded Parades

The state of Alabama snatched the mask off the face of Ku Klux Klan today.

The Alabama House of Representatives passed the measure this morning. The Senate had passed the bill last week.

The bill was signed by presiding officers, rushed to Gov. Folsom who immediately signed it.

It now is against the law for men to parade in masks in Alabama.

IT WAS A BAD DAY for masked mobsters — another day of hard pushing, determined punches by bring masked floggers to justice.

The actions of the Federal Bureau of Investigation are shrouded in secrecy.

But the FBI is on the hooded mob cases in Jefferson County.

J. Edgar Hoover's men were ordered into the field by the attorney general of the United States, Tom Clark.

Special investigators for Gov. James E. Folsom, were in the county, hunting out the masked floggers.

Atty. Gen. Albert Carmichael

has investigators in this area for a two-fold purpose, to gather evidence against hooded men and and to take legal action to revoke the charter of the Ku Klan Klan.

Solicitor Emmett Perry is checking evidence for presentation to a special session of the Jefferson County grand jury.

Meeting with Mr. Comer to put into action strategy of the Committee of 500 were Bishop Charles copal Diocese of Alabama; Bishop coplal Diocese of Alabama; Bishop Clare Purcell, of the Methodist Church; William P. Engel, real estate man; Joe H. Brady, manufacturer's agent; Hugh Brown, of the AFL; Amos Kirby, East Lake business man; Brig. Gen. John D. Higgins, attorney; Lawson Gambill, business man and veteran of two World Wars; Frank B. Yeilding, Jr., savings and loan executive; Thomas W. Martin, president of the Alabama Power Company; William Mitch, president of United Mine Workers, District, 20, and Thomas N. Crawford, assistant to Mr. Mitch.

The committee asked Jefferson legislators to press for a bill to revoke the charter of the Ku Klux Klan.

Mr. Comer appointed a subcommittee to confer with Sheriff Holt McDowell regarding needs of a 2 man uniformed county police system.

* * *

WHILE THE LEGISLATIVE arm of Alabama moved to tear the mask from the Klan, law enforcement agencies for the state and federal governments moved to the people of Alabama against those who would set themselves up and beyond the law.

Donald Comer, the quiet-voiced textile mill owner who heads the Citizens' Committee of 500, piloted his steering committee today toward two goals:

1. Legislation to shatter hooded and subversive organizations;
2. Strengthening of law enforcement agencies.

The Mize unmasking bill was roundly applauded by the Comer committee.

Klan Parades At Pell City Minus Masks

Can Unseat Politicians, Dr. Spinks Tells 600 Members At Meeting

PELL CITY, ALA., Aug. 20—(AP)— Cross burnings, the fiery speech of a white-maned Klan orator, and a robed parade signalled a renewal of Ku Klux Klan activity in Alabama tonight.

As robed but unmasked Klansmen assembled for the parade in this northwest Alabama City, Dr. Lycurgus Spinks, 64-year-old minister and Klan speaker, estimated the number at 1,000.

No such public demonstration had been held since the Alabama legislature last June outlawed public mask wearing in a blow directed at hooded terrorism.

The Klan has enough members to "unseat all the politicians fighting it," Dr. Spinks told a courthouse crowd of 600 at Talladega, Ala., last night.

The elderly Baptist Minister denied that the Klan is "after the poor old Negro." Actually, the Klan is responsible for the decrease in lynchings in the United States, he said.

He called the sheeted order, "the greatest defense against communism America has."

Three fiery crosses blazed around Gadsden, Ala., last night. Residents in their vicinity said Klan literature was found near them.

Gadsden is about 50 miles northeast of Pell City. Talladega is some 20 miles to the southeast.

Dr. Spinks calls himself "the fightingest buck private in the rear ranks of the Klan."

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., Aug. 20 — (AP) — William Hugh Morris, Alabama's jailed Klan leader, denied today that he is seeking the Klan crown of the late Dr. Samuel Green.

"Nothing is further from my mind," Morris said from his cell.

"I've read with amazement the newspaper reports of my seeking to replace Dr. Green as head of the Klan," Morris said in a written statement.

"I've made no such statement and have absolutely no desire to take his place as Imperial Wizard of the Georgia Klans.

Cleric Said To Be Member Of K.K.K.

ALABAMA, August 3 (ANA). — The Rev. R. C. Lyons was stated to be on hand and reading a prayer-book during the flogging of a Negro in this Ku Klux Klan-ridden town, last week.

When arrested and indicted on four counts, this forty-six-year-old Assembly of God minister said he knew nothing about the floggings and denied K.K.K. membership.

Homer Loomis Faces New "Hate" Charges

Daily World

Atlanta, Ga.

ATLANTA —(INS)— Homer Loomis, Jr., ex-leader of the defunct Columbians, Inc., Thursday was accused of organizing another similar "hate" group called the American Bilbo Club.

Fri. 6-17-49

Clarence H. Knight, 26, of Cobb County, Ga., brought the charge. He filed an affidavit before Judge Clark Edwards, in Elberton, Ga. Judge Edwards presided at Loomis' trial when he was convicted and sentenced to 12 months in 1947 for inciting a riot in Atlanta.

Knight, who said he is Loomis' brother-in-law, filed the affidavit in opposition to a motion filed by Loomis for a new trial. Judge Edwards has Loomis' petition under advisement.

Knight claimed Loomis began organizing the American Bilbo Club "during his recent visit to Georgia." Knight said the new club's "aims are identical with those of the Columbians, Inc." 6-17-49

Knight charged further that the new club is "being financed by foreign and subversive interest."

F.B.I. Gets Data On Alabama's Flogging Raids

Herald Tribune

New York

Acts as Georgia Affidavit Tells of New 'Hate' Group, Modeled on Columbians

Fri. 6-17-49

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., June 16 (UP).—The Federal Bureau of Investigation moved in on Alabama's hooded terror today while in Georgia a new "hate" group was reported to have sprouted on the model of the defunct Columbians, Inc., race-baiting gangs.

Some Birmingham citizens, led by B. G. Stovall, flogging victim, bought arms to shoot it out with the next intruders. Sheriff Holt McDowell warned that the raiders might descend on any home on the pretext that its occupants were "misbehaving."

An affidavit filed with Judge Clark Edwards in Elberton, Ga., named Homer Loomis jr., convicted organizer of the Columbians, as a leader of the alleged "American Bilbo Club."

The new club was believed to have backing by "foreign and subversive interests," the affidavit charged. In addition to Loomis jr., Homer Loomis sr., Emory Burke, Ira Jett, Ralph Childers, and others were named as leaders. Homer Loomis sr., New York shipping attorney, defended his son during the Columbians trials. The others named were former Columbians' leaders.

The elder Mr. Loomis, the affidavit said, devoted much time during a recent trip to Georgia "in the formation of and the securing members for the American Bilbo Club."

All facts on the three recent forays by hooded raiders in the Birmingham area have been forwarded to the Justice Department in Washington, George King, F. B. I. agent here, announced.

The Justice Department's interest in whether the three victims' civil rights were abridged in violation of Federal law.

All of Alabama's law-enforcement resources except the National Guard were mobilized in the hunt for the Birmingham raiders. But Sheriff McDowell said it was impossible to guess where they would strike next. 6-17-49

He advised citizens to shoot to kill in defense of their homes.

Mr. Stovall, thirty-one-year-old navy veteran who was flogged twenty times with a leather strap, bought a gun and kept it in readiness. He and his wife, Roxie, both said they would shoot the raiders if they made a threatened second visit to "beat them black and blue" for allegedly leavings their two children, who witnessed his abduction Tuesday, alone at night.

Mrs. tovall said she had never fired a gun but "I'd do it." "I'd not mind at all seeing them drop one at a time," she said.

The Stovalls denied they have neglected the children. A neighbor woman said she came in and looked after them when it was necessary for both parents to be away at work. The neighbors agreed that Mr. Stovall's conduct was good.

Clarence H. Kight, a brother-in-law of Loomis, filed the affidavit with the same judge who presided at Loomis's trial on riot charges. 6-17-49

The affidavit was filed in opposition to Loomis's plea for a new trial "to show the court that Loomis is still engaging in activities of the sort for which he was convicted," the document stated.

RALPH McGILL

Oh, Dear Me, The Bilbo Clubs!

Atlanta Constitution
Atlanta, Ga.

Oh, dear me!

That is about the strongest epithet we can muster, although I believe the case in point merits more.

Sat. 5-28-49

The New York Post came out, a few days ago, with an "expose" of another "hate" organization in Georgia, fathered, so it said, by Homer Loomis, the recent feuhrer of the Columbians, whose last arrest, I recall, was in a young lady's hotel room where Homer was quoted as saying he had gone to wash his feet, surely a pure and well-conceived purpose, highly recommended by physicians and welfare workers. Homer now is out on bail in a case involving violence.

The new organization is named, says The Post, for the man Bilbo, but recently gone to his reward. It is called "The American Bilbo Club."

5-28-49

What irks me is that The Post, and occasionally other publications directed to a specialized circulation, will take a little shirt-tail organization such as this, with no hope of amounting to anything more than a trap for a few suckers, and give it national publicity. It is exactly this sort of thing which betrays legitimate criticism. It is precisely this type "expose" of Southern "conditions," so exaggerated and so erroneous, that makes it possible for the Ku Kluxers and the small-time organizers, seeking to collect a little spending money from suckers willing to join any hate organization, to claim the South is being abused by Yankee meddlers.

Bilbo Club

The Bilbo clubs are just another organization following hard on the heels of others. Last year the "Kleig Light" organization, which was to put the spotlight on the activities of all non-Nordics, was born. Before that there was, by the same crowd, the Gentile clubs, or some such organization. Before that there was the "Southern Cavaliers," and so on. Next year they will have something else.

These little promotions, which somehow manage to collect small sums of money from the chronic joiners, supply the promoters with perhaps a total of $200 and then peter out.

This one may net $350 because of the necessity of giving it some attention to refute the Post's front-page ribbons. Homer Loomis has nothing to do with it. He probably is sympathetic.

The Post reported Ira Jett, now under indictment for illegal possession of dynamite and for attempted subornation of perjury, was one of the organizers. Ira is a plumber, a small one, whose telephone currently is disconnected. A former Shakespearean actor of the sweet long ago is also reported in on the deal. He reportedly reads the ritual in the initiations and can do so without fear of having tomatoes or dead cats hurled at him, a great change from the days when he trod the boards as a bit actor in a company presenting the plays of the immortal bard.

Doomed

This organization is foredoomed to have a rather small membership anyhow. Not more than a third of the Ku Kluxers would be willing to join anything named for The Man, Bilbo. *5-28-49*

It is simply wonderful what people will do to keep from working. And, what is even more wonderful, is how the crop of suckers keeps on lasting. I think, though, it is not quite as lush as in days of yore. I see the local Klan office is quoted as saying it has 140 klaverns in Georgia, 15 in Alabama and Florida, and 20 in Tennessee, and that each one has a minimum of 100 members. The boys always exaggerate, but let's take them at their own figures. That means less than 20,000 members. I'd be willing to wager the boys couldn't muster a total of 10,000.

Subversive

Since the United States labeled the Klan subversive, and since the proper agents are keeping an eye on who goes to meetings, so that any Government employee may be fired for being a member—no Federal employee can belong to a subversive organization hostile to the United States—the membership drives are cooling off.

Oh, well, the Bilbo clubs are just another little effort by the boys to collect a little cigarette money. The application says the fee, which is anything you've got, from $1 up, is a "free will offering." That means the boys don't have to say if they spent it for cigarettes, steak or to take a gal out to supper.

That's one feature I never understood—how a lot of hard-working guys, whose wives and children need food and clothes, will pay $10 to the Klan organizers so they can live easy without working, or two bucks to something like the Bilbo clubs, and never as long as they live get any return. *5-28-49*

That. I can't figure out.

Columbians Seen Behind Bilbo Club

Atlanta Daily World, Atlanta, Ga.
Fri. 5-27-49

Are the Columbians being reorganized in Atlanta?

Hints are that such is happening. Thursday, Attorney General Eugene Cook reportedly was investigating information of the reorganization. Two years ago, Mr. Cook succeeded in cancelling the charter of the anti-Negro, anti-Jewish organization. *Fri. 5-27-49*

Information to the Attorney General was that the American Bilbo Club was organized "near Atlanta" on May 6, and that Homer Loomis, Jr., and Ira Jett, former Columbian officials, are in New York City trying to raise money to finance the new organization.

It was learned that the Attorney General has on file an application for charter membership in the American Bilbo Club. The application is to be accompanied by a free-will offering. The signer agrees to obey the rules and regulations of the organization without knowing what they are. He certifies that he is an American citizen, speaks the English language and believes in Christian culture.

REPORTEDLY IN NEW YORK

Reports on the organization came from the New York Post, which alleged that Loomis and Jett are in New York seeking funds for the American Bilbo Club, "replete with emblems and dedicated to the slogan: "America for Gentiles, Africa for Negroes and Jerusalem for the Jews."

The Post charges that Loomis and Jett attended "the Atlanta dog roast, which gave birth to the Bilbo club, and 200 persons paid $1 apiece for tickets to send them on their quest for funds." *Fri. 5-27-49*

It was further charged that the two were equipped with a sawed-off shotgun, two 38 caliber revolvers, two blackjacks and two switch-blade knives.

Evidence on the new organization was turned over to Fulton Solicitor General Paul Webb by James H. Sheldon, administrative chairman of the Anti-Nazi League. Sheldon warned against letting the former Columbian leaders get their organization started.

Loomis under conviction and two 12-month sentences in Fulton county courts for activities in connection with the Columbians. Jett also was indicted for Columbian activities. The Loomis case is under appeal. *Fri. 5-27-49*

Loomis Back as Head Man

Afro-American
Baltimore, Md. Sat. 6-4-49

New Group Succeeds Banned Columbians

FOR 'MORAL WHITES' Must Hate All Jews and Colored Persons

By STETSON KENNEDY
Author "Southern Exposure"

The Columbians — those brownshirted anti-colored terrorists who cropped up in Atlanta two years ago—are seeking to re-form their ranks under the name of the "American Bilbo Club," or "ABC" as it will be called for short.

Slogan of the new hate outfit, according to an elaborate emblem printed in six colors, is "America for Whites, Africa for Negroes, Jerusalem for Jews!"

A slave ship sailing from Africa symbolizes the introduction of colored persons to the U.S., while a modern steamer leaving the U.S. symbolizes the Bilboites' goal of sending all of them "back to Africa."

This was of course a pet project of the late Sen. Theodore Bilbo of Mississippi and represents a continuation of Columbian policy. I often heard Homer Loomis Jr., the Columbian leader, rave over a soundtruck that all colored persons should be deported to Africa "with timebombs on board as an economy measure."

Seek Funds in New York

Loomis recently went to New York City on a fund-raising mission for the new hate group. Already he is sporting a new suit and briefcase. *Sat. 6-4-49*

The Bilbo Club made its formal debut with a hot dog party on May 6 on the outskirts of Atlanta.

The affair took place on the farm of Ira Jett, former Columbian No. 6 and now a member of the Ku Klux Klan's Klavalier Klub whipping squad. Jett's 1949 KKK "kard," giving his number as N-46, is on file at the Non-Sectarian Anti-Nazi League for all to see.

Some 200 persons, nearly all of them former members of the Columbians, paid $1 each to attend the wiener roast. As soon as it was over, Loomis and Jett, well-heeled, drove to New York.

Reports were that they carried with them a sawed-off 12-guage shotgun, two .38 special pistols, two blackjacks, and two switchblade "n---r killers," as Jett called them.

It was Jett's first trip outside the South, and he swore that "something drastic" must be done to put an end to "social equality."

Ten thousand applications for membership in the Bilbo Club have been printed on expensive paper. Membership is limited to white English-speaking "moral citizens, unobligated to any alien influences," who "believe in Christian culture and ethics."

The Bilbo Club insignia, in addition to bearing the letters "ABC," ironically carries the slogan, "Law, Justice, Order, Consistency."

Preliminary utterance by Loomis and other leaders indicate that the Bilbo Club will be anti-Catholic as well as anti-colored and anti-Jewish. *6-4-49*

Building Clubhouse

The Bilboites have already begun construction of a concrete block clubhouse on Jett's farm, which is located in Cobb County near Atlanta. All male members will be rquired to contribute one day of work to the building.

Application blanks leave a blank space for "free will offerings," but the minimum fee accepted is $3, as was the case with the Columbians. In short, the requirements are much the same as with the Columbians, who asked all applicants three questions:

1. Do you hate Negroes?
2. Do you hate Jews?
3. Have you got three dollars?

Jett has already been busy settling families on his extensive farmland, organizing them into "shooting clubs" which hold regular practices, for the avowed purpose of keeping all colored persons out of the vicinity.

Old Cronies

Loomis's choice of a name for his new hate movement came as no surprise to me, since as an undercover agent for the Georgia Bureau of Investigation I had long since learned that Loomis consulted Bilbo even before launching the Columbians.

In fact, Loomis's first propaganda piece was entitled "Separation or Amalgamation," which later turned out to be the title of Bilbo's book.

Very much the same crowd is running the Bilbo Club as headed up the Columbians, including Clarence Kight and P. M. Adams. It was Kight who waxed indignant at the Columbian trials when the prosecutor asked him what time it was when he was beating Clifford Hines, with a blackjack.

"When you're beating on a 'n--r,' you don't stop to look at the time!" Kight replied.

Adams is an ex-Shakespearean actor who is now peddling baby shoes from house to house. He is an advocate of what he calls "mentalnocracy" in place of democracy, whereby he would enforce white supremacy.

Loomis Free on Bail

On evidence procured by me as

a GBI agent, supplemented by affidavits obtained by the Anti-Nazi League, Loomis was sentenced in 1947 to two and one-half years on the Georgia chaingang.

He has been free on bond (provided by Jett) ever since, however, and still has a final appeal to go. He still has hope, that with "Hummon Talmadge" Governor of Georgia now his conviction will be set aside and he will be free to resume his hate-mongering.

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Reveal Hate Group Named For Bilbo

(3) Chicago Defender Chicago, Ill.

By LILLIAN SCOTT
(Defender New York Bureau)

NEW YORK — After forming a new hate organization, suitably named the American Bilbo Club, Homer Loomis, the former Park Avenue playboy, returned here a week ago to raise funds and to talk with such sympathetic persons as Westbrook Pegler, national newspaper columnist.

These facts were disclosed here last week by the Non Sectarian Anti-Nazi League which first brought Loomis' infamous activities in Georgia with the now de-custody to serve the 2½ years term of his conviction.

Loomis, the poor little rich boy who frequently made the front pages of local tabloids with his juvenile escapades, is using the new ABC to recover the scattered membership of the Columbians.

(3) 6-11-49

His latest hate group has the slogan, "America for Gentiles, Africa for Negroes and Jerusalem for Jews." The Anti-Nazi League declared that ABC policies will be "virulently anti-Jewish and anti-Negro." One proposed ABC project is to deport all American Negroes to Africa, and all Jews to Jerusalem.

Sat 6-11-49

The Bilbo club made its formal debut at a wiener roast given on the farm of Ira Jett on the outskirts of Atlanta May 6, according to League agents who attended. Jett was the No. 6 Columbian, and is a member of the Ku Klux Klan's Klavier Klub whipping squad, the League charged.

The League produced photostatic copies of Jett's 1949 KKK "kard," No. N-48, as evidence. The code number is used on each Klan card now since the KKK no longer considers it safe for members to sign cards following the Attorney General's ban on the organization as subversive.

6-4-49

Jett's card indicates that he is a member of the "mother klavern" or Klavern No. 1, which is Dr. Samuel Green, the Klan Chieftan's personal chapter.

Some 200 persons — most of them former Columbians — purchased tickets to the Bilbo Club wiener roast at $1 each. Loomis and Jett then drove to New York City in Jett's car, which contained in its rear compartment a 12-gauge sawed-off shotgun, two .38 special revolvers, two blackjacks, and two switchblade knives, it is charged.

6-4-49

Loomis and Jett spent several days consulting with supporters here and in Providence, R. I., after which they drove back to Atlanta on May 10, with arrangements made for Loomis to return to New York last week. League officials here reported that after their expose of the Bilbo club, Loomis ran into difficulty gaining immediate financial support.

New ABC's for Simple-Minded Southerners

A. B. C.

Application For Charter Membership
to the
American Bilbo Club

(3) The Afro American Baltimore Md. Sat. 6-4-49

____________________ 19____

To Chapter____________________ Sphere____________________

Believing in the principles and objective of the American Bilbo Club, I hereby respectfully apply for membership in the Chapter and Sphere as stated above; My free will offering of $__________ is to be used for the advancement of the Club.

I agree, that if elected to membership, I will obey the Constitution, By-Laws, Rules and Regulations and usage of the Club as now exists, or any future changes thereto from time to time.

I agree to uphold the Constitution of my country and honor its flag as the emblem of my sacred national rights as a free moral citizen, unobligated to any alien influences.

I am of the __________ race, citizen of the United States of North America, having been a resident of the State of__________ for______ months. I speak the English language. I believe in Christian culture and ethics as the true vine that will lift mankind to the ideal state of civilization and the ultimate reality of universality.

I have not been rejected by any Chapter within six months from the above date of this application. (I have a reputable means of support.)

My residence is____________________ Phone__________

My occupation is____________________

I was born at________________ Year______ Month______ Day______

Signature of applicant____________________

Recommended by { ____________________ / ____________________ / ____________________

This application referred to____________________

We, the Committee report________________ { ____________________ / ____________________

This is an application blank for the American Bilbo Club (a new hate-group in the South). "ABC," as it is called for short, came into being at a hot-dog party in Cobb County, Georgia, recently. Many of those joining up used to belong to the Coluumbians, who terrorized Atlanta a few years ago. Membership is limited to white English-speaking "moral citizens, unobligated to any alien influences."

Columbian Returns To Begin Sentence

Atlanta Constitution
Atlanta Georgia

By DuPONT WRIGHT

Homer Loomis, Jr., son of a prominent New York lawyer whose allegedly Nazi-like Columbians created a furor in Atlanta three years ago, came back yesterday to begin a one-year term on the Fulton County public works for riot.

With him when he reported at noon yesterday was his 19-year-old wife, the former Betty Penland, whom he married six months ago in St. Louis. Betty was his secretary when he was secretary-organizer of the Columbians, and figured as a witness in the trials of Loomis and of Emory Burke, President of the Columbians, who was also convicted on charges growing out of the Columbians' undertaking to keep Negroes out of white residential sections where tension between the races had developed.

Loomis said he had been working in St. Louis and that for about a month when he first went there he had been associated with Gerald L. K. Smith, but that he had left Smith because he was "not interested in the working man."

The 35-year-old Columbian, whose organization was shattered by the former and present Solicitor General E. E. Andrews and Paul Webb, has been out on appeal since his conviction. He wanted to begin serving his term and get it over with, but was informed by Sheriff A. B. Foster that the papers rejecting his final appeal had not been received from the Georgia Supreme Court and he still had five days in which to ask for a rehearing.

Foster told him he could begin serving his term at once if he signed a waiver of the rehearing. Loomis said that, while he had no objection to signing a waiver, he had promised his father, New York admiralty lawyer who represented him, he would not sign any papers. He said he would send a telegram for instructions to his father and report back to the Sheriff today.

Loomis said he had had a fair trial in Superior Court, but that some of the witnesses had not told the truth. He said he expected to study law after serving his term. Betty said she would get a job until his release.

The Columbians were alleged to have usurped the functions of the police in patrolling certain streets in Atlanta. They wore uniforms, with lightning insignia on the shoulders. Police said the lightning flash was a Nazi emblem, but Loomis claimed it was the ensign of the regiment in which he served in Europe.

Constitution Staff Photo—Hugh Stovall

COLUMBIANS' ORGANIZER BACK—Homer Loomis, Jr., organizer and secretary of the now defunct anti-Negro, anti-Jewish Columbians, appears with his wife in the Fulton County Sheriff's office. Loomis, convicted three years ago for riot, lost his recent appeal to the Supreme Court and yesterday was ready to begin serving a one-year sentence. His wife is the former Betty Penland, one-time Columbian Secretary.

Hate-Baiter Won't Get New Trial

Afro
Baltimore, Md.
Sat. 7-2-49

Columbians' Chief Must Serve Year for Assault

ATLANTA—Homer L. Loomis Jr., organizer-secretary of the race-baiting outlawed Columbians, Inc., on Friday lost his plea for a new trial to avoid going to jail. The motion for a new trial on a 12-month-old riot conviction was denied by Judge Clark Edwards of Elberton, the visiting jurist who presided in Atlanta, when Loomis was convicted in 1947.

Judge Clark Edwards ruled in Fulton Superior Court that Loomis's motion was "without merit." 7-2-49

Result of Housing Fracas

Loomis was convicted as the result of an assault on Clifford Hines on Garibaldi St., N.W., in the housing trouble area.

He also received a 12-month sentence for usurpation of police powers. The Court of Appeals reversed that conviction on the grounds that Judge Bond Almand erred in refusing to allow Loomis to cross-examine witnesses.

In his new trial motion, made through his father, a New York attorney, Loomis contended that all persons who participated in the riot were not named in the indictment.

Columbians Head Seeks Ga. Appeal

Sat. 10-29-49

WASHINGTON, D. C.—(NNPA)—Emory C. Burke, president of the Columbians, Inc., a race-baiting organization, last Monday asked the Supreme Court to review his conviction and three-year sentence by Georgia courts under a state statute against impersonating a police officer.

Burke was convicted as the result of his activities and those of other officials of the Columbians directed against colored persons in Atlanta where they allegedly sought to enforce a ban against loitering on the streets.

In his petition for a review Burke alleges that he was convicted on the perjured testimony of one of the state's witnesses, James Akin.

U.S. May Take Action To End Klanrats

WASHINGTON — Both the Department of Justice and the Treasury are reported to be studying requests forwarded by the American Veterans' Committee for income tax action, and FBI surveillance of the Associated Georgia Klans.

Lester Percelles, chairman of the AVC national planning board, and a resident of Atlanta, pointed out that the Georgia outfit is the same bunch of racketeers and hoodlums who came under federal indictment as the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, Inc., for income tax evasion several years ago. The action was dropped when the organization disbanded under the old name.

The AVC also urged that the klanrat organization be declared on the subversive list of the Department of Justice, and subjected to FBI investigation for un-American activity. It urged that the klan members be purged from civil service jobs and eligible lists on the grounds that the organization is subversive.

Churchman Says Forces Rising To Combat Ku Klux

COLUMBIA, S. C. — (ANP) — The organization of an anti-Ku Klux Klan vigilantes committee that will wage violent warfare against the hooded organization, was disclosed here last week by an official or the South Carolina Federation forces. The report came from Maxie C. Collins, executive secretary of the federated group, who said his information has "a firm and convincing foundation."

However, he envisioned a "reign of terror such as we have not witnessed since reconstruction days" unless the state legislature passes an anti-mask law.

He said the plan called for the banding together of white people opposed to lawlessness recently manifested in incidents such as the beating of a lexington county Negro, Shelton Lorick."

Lorick was hospitalized for a week with bruises and lacerations on his head, sustained in a beating by white men last May 8 near West Columbia. Lorick's attackers were unmasked.

Collins refused to identify any of the founders of the vigilantes committee, but said he heard about the movement six months ago.

"They will come out against violence," he said. But so did the Ku Klux Klan. I don't want to see one mob fighting another mob."

He denied that he was cooperating or is a member of the vigilante group but said he had contacts within the organization.

Unfriendly To The Klan

Governor Fuller Warren, Florida's newly elected Chief Executive was deeply incensed over the action of the Ku Klux Klan in flaunting law and order in Tallahassee last week by motoring through the city streets in a 43-car parade. To make certain that this will not happen again, the new governor has announced his determination to ask the approaching Legislature to pass laws forbidding such parades and to outlaw completely, the Klan.

That's what happens in a state or community where the Klan is not wanted. It is unthinkable in these days of progress and mutual goodwill to have Klansmen spreading seeds of discord and dissension in and out of our communities. They do not have any official status in government. They have no official connection with the church. They have no recognition by society and make no contribution to it. Hence, they exist only as a festering sore on the body politic. Everywhere they are being pushed out of decent and orderly society. Citizens with decent instincts do not wish to have the Klan support in any endeavor. And fewer and fewer candidates for political office are ready to accept Klan support as a condition to get into office.

Thus, in states where the Klan is making headway it is doing so at the sufferance of the people who reside in it. If the ministers are solid in their opposition against the Klan the chances are strong that it will stage fewer marches into church meetings. If the politicians are solid in their opposition it will be impossible for the Klan to stage a march or to burn crosses in front of citizens homes or on school grounds, because the county Sheriff and the citizens together could stop it. And in like manner, if the atmosphere of state government is unfriendly to the klan and its support, then there is little likelihood that it can survive in a state. The Klan is flourishing in Georgia because it has found fertile soil here. In a lesser manner, it enjoys a rich field in Alabama. But mainly in Georgia and Alabama do we have any semblance of authority being exercised upon the government by the Klan. We don't think that will or can last very much longer. Public opinion, even outside of these states, will serve to uproot these groups, sooner or later.

We commend Governor Warren upon his determination. And we pray that members of his legislature will think and feel as he does. It is more than an even guess that they will follow his leadership and enact the legislation against it.

Publicity Hungry Klansmen

Save for the new flare to gain notoriety through sly publicity stunts, it is our considered opinion that the Ku Klux Klan is nothing like the force it once was in the Southland. One hears much about the Klan marching into church meetings, or burning crosses or staging parades here and there. But these stunts need not be magnified out of their proper proportion for the Klan today is weaker and more badly disorganized than it has been in nearly a quarter of a century according to a most reliable report we have.

This is not to suggest that citizens should relax their vigil and to stack arms in their fight against Klan extermination in America and especially in Georgia and the South. For as long as there remains one person who does not believe in a trial by jury that person is a threat to the orderly processes of government and must be smitten as surely as we smite a poisonous snake in our beds. But we insist that the overly publicized Klan exists principally on paper, or rather in the papers through cheap publicity, such as characterized their march into the Chattanooga church meeting last Sunday evening.

We have no doubts but that the Klan carefully planned the little act of mercy in Alabama when they had their picture taken presenting an old Negro couple a radio for Christmas. And we strongly suspect that their march into the Baptist church in Chattanooga Sunday evening was a pre-arranged affair, although the little preacher in charge confessed he was "scared to death" when he looked up.

The Klan is on its way out of southern politics. And we hope out of existence, as there is no need for such an organization. The government is supported and maintained to keep the peace and to preserve law and order. Negroes know this and are not being deterred in their pursuit of full equality before the law. And the fear of Reconstruction Days, as well as the Negroes of that era, is gone forever.

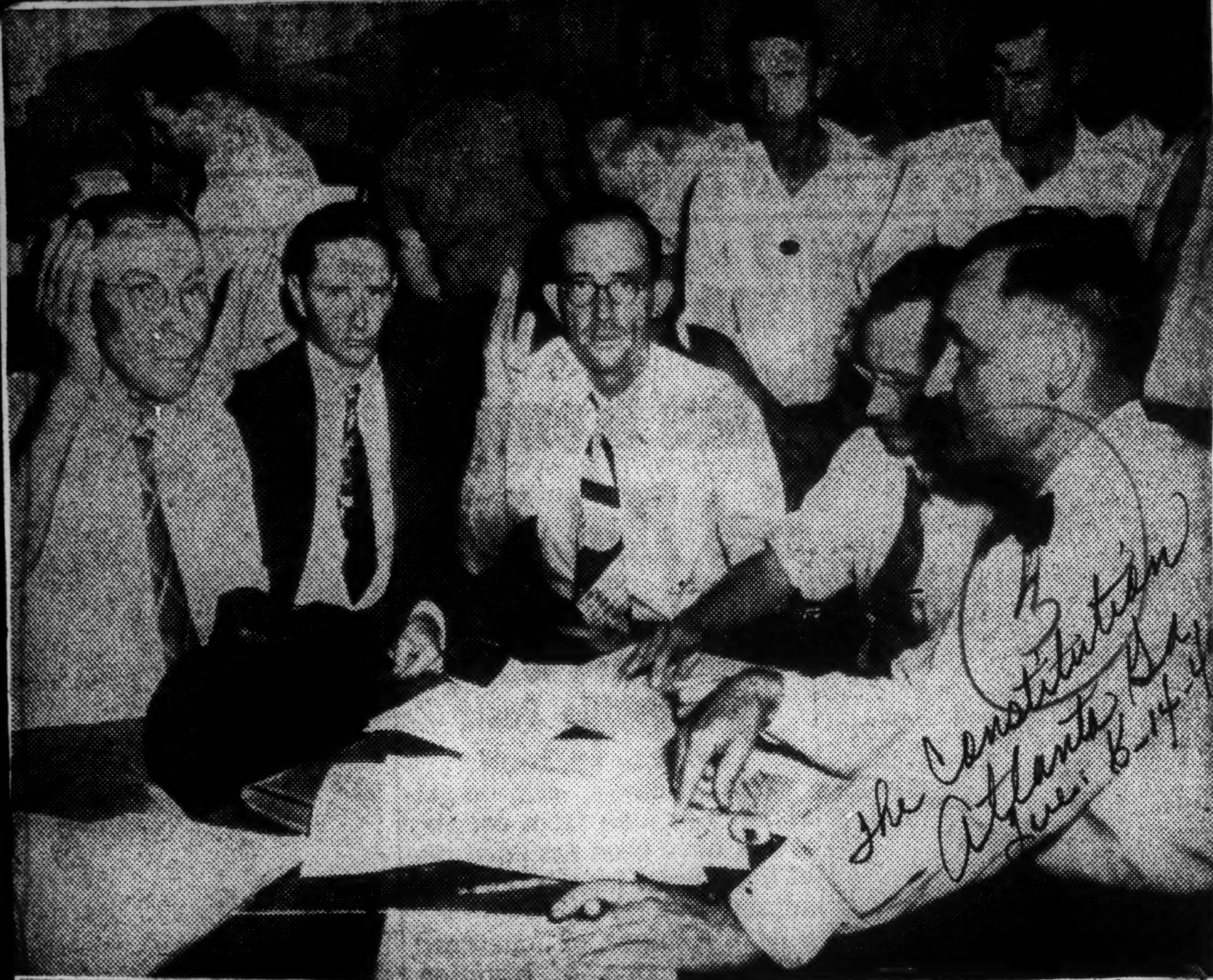
SOUTH ACTS IN BAD FAITH

The almost weekly reports of violent acts against Negroes living in the South at the hands of hooded bands garbed in the regalia of the Ku Klux Klan, belie the claim that the "Klan is dying out in the South."

In many sections in Georgia and Tennessee, the KKK is working hand and glove with the sheriffs and other less ranking officers of the law are now keeping up a reign of terror among the colored people and nothing is being done about it by the states.

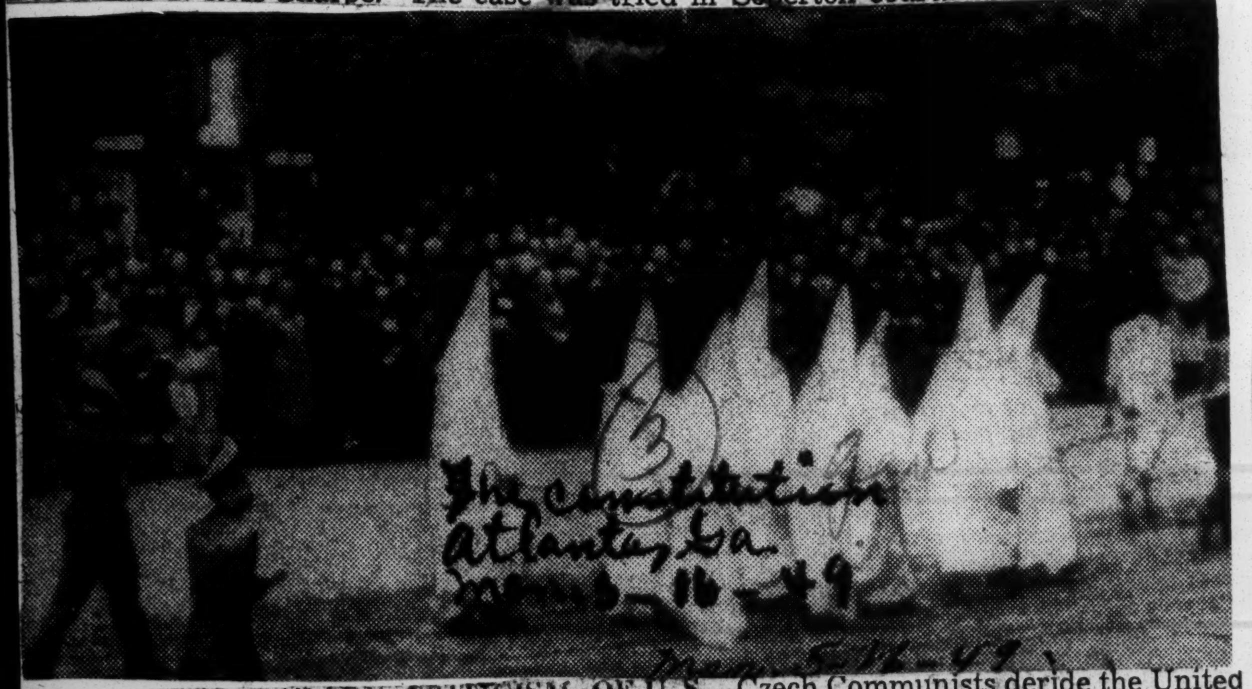
Surely, the citizen is entitled to the protection of limb and life under the law and Constitution of the United States. If the states continue to deny this protection, then the Federal Government is duty bound to give this protection.

As long as these hooded bands can go to Negro churches and call one member after another from their worship and flog them until the flogger's beastly nature is satisfied and the so-called law does nothing about it, not only the South but the United States fails in its duty.



TRIAL AT SOPERTON—The three defendants, who went on trial yesterday charged with disturbing the peace after Soperton's Mayor James Peterson ripped off their masks, are shown swearing to statements they gave. The men, left to right, are John Edge, Malcolm Braddy and Joe Greene, and attorneys for the defense, W. Reeves Lewis and T. Ross Sharpe. The case was tried in Soperton court.

The Constitution, Atlanta, Ga. Tue. 6-14-49



CZECH REDS PARADE CRITICISM OF U. S.—Czech Communists deride the United States during their May Day parade in Prague. At the head of the group are two blacked-up persons tied with ropes being driven by hooded figures dressed in what resembles Ku Klux Klan regalia. Behind them marches man in Nazi Gestapo uniform.

The Constitution, Atlanta, Ga.

Aroused Citizens Fighting

The World, Atlanta Ga.

The collective mentality of the Ku Klux Klan appears altogether incapable of fore-telling the certain doom for its future security, either in the North or South. This is indicated by the ruthless, roughshod manner in which it tramples upon the moral and civil rights of citizens, white as well as black.

Therein lies the smouldering resentment now swelling into the hearts and minds of aroused citizens throughout the South. In Alabama, where similar action is expected from the House, aroused citizens are working at fever heat to bring the Klan from under the mask of hoods and bed sheets.

In a number of Georgia cities Council members have voted to outlaw the Klan mask. In Florida and in North Carolina, the Klan has been fearing rather coldly. One by one, the states and the local cities are moving on their own initiative to outlaw these dangerous elements from their communities. Sun. 6-26-49

This is as it should be. It proves that the Nation does not welcome nor want the Klan. And the South is beginning to show that it does not want or need the Klan in order to carry on the functions of government.

Our boys, white and colored alike, who fought and died in the foxholes and on the battle fields during the recent war, spilled their blood and gave their lives for something better, holier and higher than the Ku Klux Klan running their government. They were told that they were fighting and dying to preserve for all of the participants in our democracies the right to freedom from Fear, freedom from want and freedom of religion. The klan by its action, conducts a campaign of fear, promotes want and poverty and opposes people because of their religious beliefs.

Thus, the people, the plain every-day American man and woman, are not interested in the klan program. They think and we think, too, that their chosen representatives are, or ought to be, capable enough to operate the government without the aid or support of the klan. And if it is found that politicians have no more to commend themselves to the voters than their rabid appeal to race-hate and religious persecution of certain segments of the population, then its time for us as voters to rise up and banish such a candidate from politics forever. Such a man is not fit to represent us in matters of government.

The Klan And The Community

Daily World, Atlanta, Ga.

In the March issue of the Southern Regional Council's publication, New South, we find a thoughtful analysis of the Klan and the Community.

The pamphlet points out that though the original Klan had as its reason for being motives the Reconstruction South accepted as pure and necessary, its organization let loose upon the land, to its shame, sorrow and harm, "a monster it could not control." Whatever seemed gallant and noble to the minds of the organizers soon became sordid and infamous in the hands of these men whose actions and outrages, done in the name of the Klan, compelled General Nathan Bedford Forrest to disband the group.

Sun. 4-24-49

The publication also makes clear that although the Association of Georgia Klans is "by no means responsible for all of the acts of violence done in its guise and its name," its very framework gives opportunity and encouragement to inspired elements who range abroad, spreading destruction and hate. However, the report cites sixty-six separate acts of violence by the Klan or as a result of the Klan spirit. And, of course, most of the violence was directed against Negro people.

When General Forrest saw the crimes committed in the name of the Ku Klux Klan, he dismembered it. Our Dr. Green might follow suit in this.

The surest cure for our civic ills, New South contends, is a firm and resolute public opinion seconded by vigorous and decisive action. When the good people of Milledgeville, Georgia, rallied at their courthouse and called on police officials to carry out their duties well, they set a pattern of leadership for earnest citizens not only in the South but everywhere.

The good are too silent when the lawless element flourish over us. The forces of wrong are on a 23-hour, daily shift. Let the good among us be up and doing with a heart for any fate; still achieving, still pursuing.

Soperton Mayor Cited For Unmasking Klansmen

Atlanta Daily World

Atlanta, GA.

Truman Recalls Days When He Resisted Klan

Tues. 6-7-49

WASHINGTON — (INS) — President Truman Monday complimented Mayor James Peterson of Soperton, Ga., on his courageous action in unmasking three members of the Ku Klux Klan on the streets of his community.

The President, during his days as a Missouri judge, also led a fight against the Klan.

Mayor Peterson told the President Monday of how he had snatched masks from the faces of three to five Klan members who were parading the streets of Soperton on a Saturday afternoon, and had the men arrested and charged with loitering.

Tues 6-7-49.

Peterson told newsmen after his talk with the President that as Acting Court Recorder, the case will come before his court in a few days, but, under the circumstances, he has not decided yet whether he will disqualify himself.

The Mayor said that the Klan members in his community were "for the most part friends and neighbors who have been led astray." He said that Grand Dragon Samuel Green, of the Ku Klux Klan, has threatened to bring legal action against him for unmasking the Klansmen.

Peterson said that he hopes Green "won't be this indiscreet." The Mayor added:

"He won't find it so pleasant for there are other angles to this incident that I would not care to mention. But if he persists they will be vigorously pursued."

He said of the Klansmen in his community:

Tues 6-7-49

"Those fellows and their associates are for the most part friends and neighbors who have been led astray. They are well-meaning citizens whose indiscretions have been brought about by undue influence of strong, selfish and unwholesome influence."

KLAN NOW FACING HEAVIER ATTACKS

New York, N.Y.

Federal Court Action May Set Precedent Which Will Quell Some Acts of Violence

Times

By GEORGE HATCHER

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

ATLANTA, Ga., Dec. 3—The fiery crosses of the Ku Klux Klan continue to light up countrysides over the South, and waves of violence and intimidation are reported here and there. But a growing army of persons and organizations opposed to the principles and practices of the hooded order is fighting back with increasing vigor and gaining some ground in the struggle.

Sun. 12-4-49

Observers agree, however, that rooting out the Klan still appears to be a long-term job, although the Kluxers are in deeper trouble at the moment than at any time since their post-war resurgence.

The Klan is under almost constant attack by grand juries, preachers, educators and members of civic organizations. More than a score of its members in Georgia and Alabama, strongholds of Ku Klux Klanism in the South, are under indictment for floggings and other outrages.

Marion H. Allen, the Federal income tax collector in Atlanta, has just ordered Klan klaverns in Atlanta, Macon and Augusta to bring in their books for income tax auditing. Klan spokesmen contend that the robed order is a charitable and benevolent organization and exempt from taxes. But Mr. Allen asserts that he has collected $17,000 in back income taxes from the headquarters here of the Association of Georgia Klans and some $40,000 from the estate of the late Dr. Samuel Green, Klan grand dragon.

Tax Exemption Sought

The new Klan grand dragon, Samuel W. Roper, the 54-year-old former Atlanta policeman and director of the late Gov. Eugene Talmadge's Georgia Bureau of Investigation, has said the Klan may ask the courts to decide if the organization might be exempted from taxation on the contention that it is charitable and benevolent.

Adding to the Klan woes are anti-mask laws which have been adopted by two states—Alabama and Tennessee—and by twenty-five communities.

Similar measures are pending in many other municipalities.

This week, before a Federal court jury at Rome, Ga., witnesses identified Sheriff John W. Lynch of Dade County and three of his deputies, William M. Hartline, N. Stokes McCauley and John Bleckley, as having had some part in a cross-burning in front of the home of Mamie Clay, near Trenton, Ga., followed by the alleged whipping of seven Negroes who were visitors at the Clay home.

Constitutional Violations

The Sheriff, his deputies and eight other persons are on trial on charges of conspiring to violate the constitutional rights of the flogged Negroes. A special session of the Federal grand jury indicted them in August.

The Government has sought to show that the Sheriff, his deputies and eight citizens conspired to arrest the seven Negroes without cause and turn them over to a band of fifty to seventy-five men who wore Klan robes.

To many observers, the trial represented the Federal Government's first major effort to step into the fight against the Klan. If convictions are obtained, it is pointed out, increased Federal action in the protection of civil rights against Klan activities may be expected.

Trial in Alabama

Three accused Klansmen are facing another court trial in Birmingham, Ala., next week. They were indicted several months ago in a probe of Klan floggings.

Meanwhile, Klan leaders have served notice that they hope to return the hooded order to the position of power and wealth that it enjoyed during its hey-day in the Nineteen Twenties.

Several months ago, strife appeared to be developing within Klan ranks over who was to become the order's national leader. Only recently the Georgia leader, Mr. Roper, and Dr. Lycurgus Spinks of Montgomery, Ala., announced that they had reached complete agreement and that their klaverns had been consolidated into an "Associated Klans of America."

When the Spinks organization was formed earlier this year, he asserted that it numbered 265,000 members in many states. Mr. Roper declares he is now the leader of the national order as well as the Association of Georgia Klans and that Dr. Spinks is the imperial chaplain and public relations counselor.

Those who have followed Klan activities recall that an upsurge of Ku Kluxism occurred when the civil-rights controversy developed and Federal court decisions upheld Negroes' voting privileges. The Klan also has capitalized on its professed fight against communism. Reports are current that Klan leaders are marshaling their forces for a determined membership drive when the civil-rights issue comes before Congress again.

At this point, however, it is safe to predict that the Klan membership, unlike that of bygone years when many of the best people in communities were members, will be confined to that minority who are subject to appeals involving fears and prejudices.

RALPH McGILL

Atlanta Constitution

Blood Pressure, 128 Over 88

Atlanta Georgia

It never occurs to me that my daily routine is of any special interest, but a visiting friend has left emotionally exhausted saying he would crack-up under it. *Sat-1-28-49*

During his visit my wife had anonymous letters abusing me, one suggesting I was in love with another lady, an occasional drunk was abusive over the 'phone and still others called up for advice and help in how to get off the stuff. Kluxers, acting on orders, tried to smear me, with a stupid lie, and various persons called to complain or praise comments on politics. People sought help getting jobs. Meanwhile, the mail continues heavy and office callers are at an all-time high with comment and proposals, good, bad and amusing. Many of the letters, calls and callers are wonderful. It had never occurred to me it was anything other than normal. It is always like that.

I came back from the recent inauguration with a crick in the neck and a doctor, treating it, took my blood pressure. It was 128 over 88. So, I guess it is normal. My life, I mean.

Calmer Looking back on it, it seems so much calmer than it used to be. Politics in Tennessee, when I was assigned to Major E. B. Stahlman at a time when the Luke Leas and the Stahlman's were feuding and there was blood on the moon and pistols were standard equipment for reporters going to cover political meetings, was exciting. I never had my blood pressure taken in those days. If I had I imagine it would have been leaping up and down like an adagio dancer doing entrechats in the pas de deux.

The Kluxer Kops are merely a little more pathetic than regular members in their own inadequacy and lack of faith in themselves. This explains the whole Kluxer psychology. The boys feel they don't amount to much and they want the feeling of power, so they join the Klan and wear sheets and thrill like little boys playing ghosts or like high school kids walking through a graveyard on a dare. It gives them the "big-shot" feeling of importance.

Reason That is why the Klan is potentially such a cancer and a danger to any community. It takes in ill-informed, frightened men who haven't any faith or belief in their own ability to be somebody and who feel they have to have a lot of others about them to be strong and confident. Such people can be easily led or inflamed to kill someone or go off and beat helpless persons with a sadistic delight in the beatings.

I honestly feel sorry for most of the Kluxer members. They don't see that their membership strips their mentality and their own idea about themselves and reveals them naked to the world. The only really evil and wicked ones are those leaders who exploit such persons. The average member is really a forlorn, pitiful sort of fellow whose church has failed him and who feels, somehow, that life has cheated him. And, maybe it has, for all I know.

Dying But the Kluxers are a dying race, even though they are having a sort of mild membership boom just now. There are no persons of importance in the membership, or of power. A few minor judges over the South, a few minor county and municipal officials in some of our cities, who want every vote they can get, and who join everything that comes along, are in and privately ashamed of it. But no one who really has prestige as there was in the old Klan of the '20s is now a member. The churches speak out against it. Recently the Methodists urged that no minister allow the robed members to enter or participate in any manner in worship. So while I know the Klan for what it is, as an un-Christian, un-American organization with a potential for great evil and violence, I honestly have never been able to muster much more than pity for the average members. In other countries Mussolini, Hitler, Franco and lesser such leaders took the same sort of people and led them to bring great sorrow to themselves and to the world. Over here the church and the real leadership has learned the truth about them. So their smears and their cheap little lies don't matter a great deal. Nor do their foolish parades and shows. The Klan is on the way out.

My work and my life have been, and are, a lot of fun. I can't imagine a man who doesn't like to discuss controversial subjects, but who avoids them out of fear of being "bothered." It never occurs to me that anyone dislikes me for it and I never met anyone I didn't like, in at least some degree. I like newspaper work and have never had a day when I wasn't eager to go to work. There have been days, to be sure, when I didn't feel like it, but never a day I didn't look forward to the work with pleasure. It rarely seems strenuous, and most of it is fun. If I crack up I will be the most surprised of all. *Sat-1-28-49*

Klever Ku Kluxers

(From North Carolina Catholic)

Memphis World *Memphis Tennessee*

Ku Kluxers pulled a clever trick on the American press last week. It seems that the Associated Press was hoodwinked into distributing pictures of a group of masked Klansmen playing Santa Claus to some unfortunate Negroes. A number of daily papers and at least one national magazine carried, thoughtless we hope, one or more of these pictures, and a flurry of excitement swept the nation.

One newspaper that we know of, namely the "News and Observer" of Raleigh, recognized its error in printing a propaganda picture for the subversive Kluxers and apologized editorially. The editorial went to some length to point out the obvious fact that the picture was staged. For that we are grateful, but we cannot help wishing the editor had gone farther in discussing such propaganda by the Klan. *Tues-1-18-49*

We wish that every publication that was ensnared by this KKK stunt had taken the trouble of pointing out in no uncertain terms that the doling out of a little charity by the disreputable Klan does no violence to the principles of that organization. During the Christmas season even a "Scrooge" gives in to love and parts with a few stinting gifts, a gesture that seldom indicates a real change of heart but seldom fails to impress the unwary.

It is well to remember that among other things the Klan is dedicated to the preservation of a mythical white supremacy and to the denial of justice, the primary expresion of charity in the true sense of the word. As long as the Klan is the foe of justice, justice to the Negro, to the immigrant, to the Jew or to the Catholic, such propaganda stunts as presenting a few groceries and a radio to impoverished and underprivileged fellow citizens is a meaningless sham .The act is no more than a disguise to conceal or to divert attention from the real purpose of the organization. It is our hope that most of the people who saw those pictures recognized them as clever efforts by a disreputable organization to manufacture a favorable testimonial.

NEARLY NINE MILLION

St Louis Argus *St Louis Missouri*

The FBI asked for nearly nine million dollars to fight the "Reds" in the United States.

About two-thirds of that amount should be used to fight the Ku Klux Klan and the Gerald L. K. Smith crowd whom we believe are more dangerous to the future security of the nation, than the so-called Reds.

Think on these things. *Fri-4-8-49*

The Klan Stalks On With Too Much License

Courier Journal *Louisville Ky*

"I JUST froze there, I was so scared," said the minister of a small church near Chattanooga, telling how hooded Klansmen stalked in upon his congregation at worship. A woman pianist fainted. The impression of sudden terror, in a place where there should be no fear, only peace and security, was made vivid by the news report. *Tues-1-25-49*

The average citizen will feel a kind of bitterness and frustration, reading of the sacrilege of things like that. They are a constant terror to communities where the Ku Klux Klan stalks in its mumbo jumbo and pretensions. In too many places in the South the goons not only move with license but actually with protection of public authority.

In the Georgia legislature last week a bill to forbid the wearing of masks brought forth an instant loud protest. It was defeated by a round majority. Commenting on the occurrence, *The Atlanta Constitution* said the defeat was too bad, but the real remedy lies in the hearts of men. Regeneration must come there, said the editorial. We agree, but a little police action would help.

Warren On The Klan

Birmingham News *Birmingham Ala.*

The story told by Gov. Fuller Warren of Florida of how he once joined the Ku Klux Klan and then left it in disgust and loathing provides an interesting sidelight on that organization, and on the governor. *Thur 3-17-49*

The Florida executive says he joined the Klan many years ago after repeated requests by a friend who received a commission on each membership he obtained. Gov. Warren now acknowledges he was not then "sufficiently familiar with this un-American mob to realize what a dangerous, anarchistic, subversive outfit it was—and continues to be."

He attended, he said, two or three meetings and was "disgusted by the quarreling, wrangling and fussing." He never wore a hood, never marched in a Klan parade, never took part in any of the Klan's "brandings, beatings, whippings, torturings, or lynchings." He never participated in the Klan's "cowardly attempts to terrify helpless people." He never helped the Klan "stir up hatred against defenseless groups of good American citizens."

All of which explains why Gov. Warren now wants the Florida Legislature to ban the organization, and why he referred recently to the Klansmen as "covered cowards, hooded hoodlums, and sheeted jerks." The governor speaks as one who knows.

Spurn Klan 'Bribe,' Pastors Told

Southern Baptist pastors yesterday were asked to refuse "bribe money" offered by the Ku Klux Klan.

The request was made by Dr. Hugh A. Brimm, Louisville, executive secretary of the Social Service Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Dr. Brimm noted the Klan visited and made contribution to a Chattanooga Church last Sunday night. In a letter to editors of Southern Baptist publications in a 21-state area, he said:

"The incident will probably be repeated many times now that the Klan has sunk to such a low level in the thinking of decent and respectable people.

'Keep Cool,' Pastors Told.

"These 'contributions' should be recognized for what they are, 'bribe money.' Bringing such bribes into the church ought to be openly resented and refused by Christian people."

Dr. Brimm suggested to pastors "that when and if the Klan comes to your church remember the following:

"Keep cool—no one should be afraid of cowards who won't show their faces.

"That superficial piety is hypocrisy before God and man. These men cannot wash the bloodstains of lynched victims from their skirts by merely walking into a church with 'blood money.'

"Refuse any gifts and invite them to stay only if they remove their masks. If they refuse to unhood themselves, then dismiss the service with a prayer for them that they might see the light of God's love for all men and themselves come to love all men."

NEW PASS WORD FOR KU KLUX

BROOKLYN—(ANP)— Drew Pearson, who apparently maintains a personal informant in the Ku Klux Klan, has given out what he reported as their latest pass word. He said it is "white night man."

Klan By-Products

Lawless acts carried out in some numbers here and there over the South by robed and masked men have brought denials from officials of the Ku Klux Klan that its members were involved. Near Chattanooga and Atlanta there has been serious trouble off and on for the past several months, and some indictments have been brought. The denials of the Klan are as they may be proved to be, but there can be no dispute about the statement that violence by sheeted figures is a by-product of the Klan wherever it exists.

Wherever a group operates under the cover of disguises the lawless are automatically made far more nearly free to go to work without normal risk of discovery and punishment. It was so with the original Klan, and it has been so with every other secret and masked organization. In the unhappy days when night riders were out in the tobacco district of Tennessee and Kentucky, the riffraff in the community were able to vent their spite and carry out their schemes for revenge in comparative immunity.

In any section where men who hide behind disguises presume to take the law into their own hands, the moral fabric of the area tends to disintegrate. It has been proved over and over again in many lands and periods. The idea that any community can tolerate Klanism in any form or for any purpose is a dangerously delusive one, for it blots and blights every activity that is commendable and truly profitable.

AVC Says KKK Uses Alias To Escape Subversive List

WASHINGTON, D. C.—(ANP)— According to the American Veterans committee here last week, the Ku Klux Klan is escaping the consequences of being on Atty. Gen. Tom Clark's list of subversive organizations by using an alias.

This charge was contained in a letter addressed to Clark by Gilbert A. Harrison, AVC national chairman, which read: "Your office now lists the Ku Klux Klan as a subversive organization. There is no such organization now carrying out the principles generally associated with the KKK'ism. The Klan is now the Associated Klans of Georgia, an alias for the knights of the Ku Klux Klans, Inc., which was disbanded some time ago when the KKK was faced with an income tax case."

Urging that the Associated Klans of Georgia be put on the list of subversive organizations Harrison pointed out that the civil service's loyalty review board recently ordered like boards in all federal government agencies to "confine consideration and assessment of derogatory information to organizations on the attorney general's list.

"Thus today, the government has no way of keeping out of its employ members of the Associated klans of Georgia," he related.

In Atlanta, however, Dr. Samuel Green, grand dragon of the Klan association, disputed Harrison's claim. He said "The Associated of Georgia Klans has nothing to do in any way with the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, Inc. The association has never done anything that was contrary to law and can do nothing that is subversive, since every member is a native-born citizen of the United States.

"Therefore, Mr. Clark cannot classify the association as subversive without a trial and there has been no accusation made."

Judge Fort Denies Charter Of Klan Given 'Improperly'

COLUMBUS—(AP)—Judge T. Hicks Fort yesterday challenged U. S. Atty. Gen. Tom Clark to produce evidence that the charter of the original Southern Klans, Inc., was "improvidently granted."

The Superior Court Judge last June granted a charter to the secret order which Attorney General Clark Wednesday branded a "subversive" organization.

"I would welcome any proof Tom Clark has," the Judge said, "in fact I challenge him to show his proof that the charter was improvidently or improperly granted."

The Judge added, "I don't see red simply because there are three K's." He did not say what action he would take if proof to support the "subversive" label were offered, but stated "anyone with proof is welcome in my court."

At the time the charter was granted last year, Judge Fort stated that the charter came to him with "proper authentication from Secretary of State Ben Fortson, and there was nothing for me to do but grant it."

Fortson declared, in reply, "A Judge not only has the power to halt the issuance of a charter, under the law he can revoke a charter if he believes the corporation is not properly organized or against public interest." The Secretary of State insisted his department was only "a record office."

Judge Fort later commented that he did not go into the politics of every organization seeking a charter and that he accepted Fortson's certificate "as evidence that there was no objection."

Attorney General Clark listed the Association of Georgia Klans (Atlanta) and two other organizations with the Columbus-chartered group as "advocating force and violence to deny others" their constitutional rights.

Fred W. New, Columbus and Hamilton attorney, said Wednesday night as general counsel for the Columbus corporation:

"If Mr. Clark has evidence that we have violated any State or Federal statute in any manner, we are fully prepared to meet the charge before an American jury."

Says Ku Klux Klan Will Destroy White Supremacy

CHARLESTON, W. Va. — The greatest threat to "White Supremacy" in the world today is the Ku Klux Klan, the very organization that most strongly wants to preserve it. "Unless the Ku Klux Klan is destroyed," says COLOR Magazine, "it is bound to weaken and finally destroy the leadership of the white race in the world."

The revival of the KKK in Georgia, writes the editor of COLOR in the February issue, is dangerous to democracy because it gives world Communism such an appeal to the people of Asia and Indonesia which are falling under the leadership of Russia.

In recent initiation of the KKK, shown pictorially in COLOR in which women and even policemen were initiated, and which the Bible itself is exploited, COLOR points out the danger of Communism in these words:

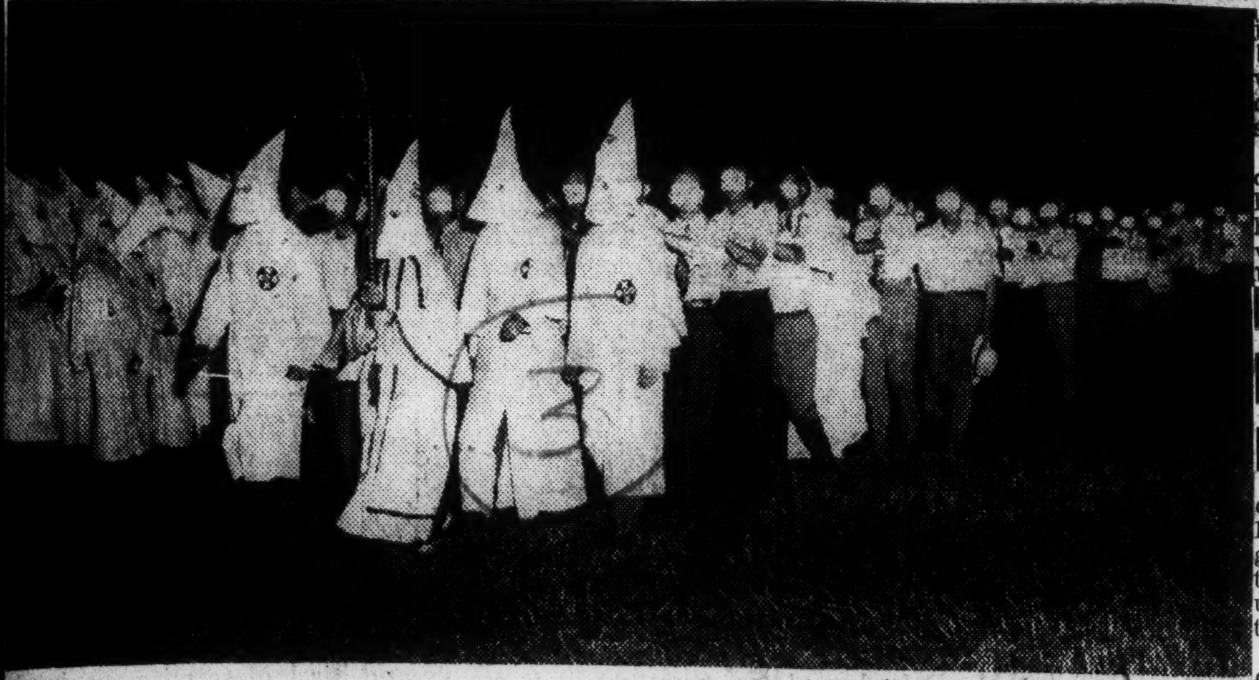
"Oddly enough, Ku Klux Klan is the worst enemy of "White Supremacy." The real threat of white supremacy in the world is not Jews, Catholics and the handful of loyal Negroes in this country, but foreign Communists capturing the billions of yellow and brown people now being won over to Communists because such people as the KKK's exhibit blind selfishness and refuse to let democracy work."

"It was the undemocratic spirit of Ku Klux Klanism at work in Indonesia and in China that Jim-crowed Chinese and others in their own countries in such places as the International Settlement in Shanghai and Hong Kong that made them such easy prey for Communists. The Kommunists are telling the orientials and the rest of the world that they do not tolerate racial and class discrimination. These Kommunists not only there, but in the U. S. A. are happy to see the KKK stage a comeback."

KKK Imperils U. S. Liberty, Judge Townsend Warns in Rap at 'Hooded Mobsters'

The Constitution, Atlanta, Ga.

Wed. 6-15-49



Constitution Staff Photo—Marion Johnson

"HOODED MOBSTERS?" Judge J. M. C. "Red" Townsend, of the Georgia Court of Appeals, yesterday said Klan meetings like this one at Stone Mountain last night were threatening the freedom Americans have kept "at a price almost unimaginable." There is no place in America, the Judge said, for "religious hatred and intolerance, for preachments which cause one group to rise up against another."

In a blistering attack on "hooded mobsters" who have become self-appointed judges, jurors and executioners, Judge J. M. C. "Red" Townsend, of the Georgia Court of Appeals, yesterday warned Americans they were in danger of losing their liberty to the Ku Klux Klan.

The freedom which Americans bought and have kept "at a price almost unimaginable" is being threatened daily by "a man under a hood and a sheet," Judge Townsend declared in an address at the weekly luncheon meeting of the Civitan Club.

Judge Townsend cited specific recent cases throughout Georgia and neighboring States where Klansmen have taken it upon themselves to "try a man behind closed doors and in his absence and then go out in their sheets and punish him by brutal beatings and in some cases death."

"When the Constitution of the United States was drawn up in 1789," he said, "there was fear among the American people that it did not protect the sovereign citizen from his Government. That's why the first 10 amendments, which we know as the Bill of Rights, were passed—to guarantee us against illegal search and seizure, against having troops quartered in our homes, against being tried and convicted twice for the same offense. Trial by jury is our right—and it is our right to be faced by our accusors and to cross-examine them. Hooded mobsters are taking that right away from us."

Wed. 6-15-49

Judge Townsend decried the "sadly misinformed" citizen who is willing to tolerate the Klan because "sometimes it whips somebody who needs it."

"Our liberty is in jeopardy," he said. "We are sleeping on the job. We are not standing on the ramparts of liberty and guarding it jealously. We are forgetting the billions of gallons of blood that were spilled to buy it, the billions of dollars of money that were spent to buy it."

Judge Townsend cited the recent beatings of seven Negroes in his native Dade County and said he knew two of the Negroes were veterans of the North African and Italian campaigns in World War II.

Defendant in Georgia Flogging Case Says He Didn't Tell FBI Truth

ROME, Ga., Dec. 7—(AP)—The question of whether the Federal Bureau of Investigation or the Georgia Bureau of Investigation got the truth about Negro floggings bobbed up again in the mass civil rights trial here.

News

Defendant Harris Durham testified that he told the GBI the truth in a written statement about the case of the seven whipped Negroes, but did not tell the truth orally to the FBI.

Wed. 12-7-49

UNDER CROSS examination by U. S. District Atty. J. Ellis Mundy, the 27-year-old machinist and father of two from Trenton, Ga., said he denied his presence at a cross burning when the FBI questioned him.

This cross burning the night of April 2, the government charges, preceded the false arrest of the seven Negroes and their surrender to a mob of Ku Klux Klansmen.

Durham, along with Dade County Sheriff John W. Lynch, three of his deputies and five others are accused by the government of conspiring to have the Negroes seized and beaten.

His testimony was a reversal of previous statements by a series of Negro witnesses, including those beaten, who said they told the truth to the FBI but not to the Georgia agency.

Deputy Admits Using Blackjack On Vet Who Protested Klan Ride

BY BEM PRICE

ROME, Ga., Dec. 9—(AP)—A lean, expressionless deputy calmly admitted he once blackjacked a war veteran who protested a Ku Klux Klan parade.

Further, said Deputy Sheriff William Hartline, he warned the veteran to leave the Klansmen alone.

Hartline's appearance on the stand yesterday in the mass civil rights trial of 10 Dade County men was the highlight so far of the 12-day-old legal battle over the flogging of seven Negroes.

Before the day was over, Hartline admitted that even though a Ku Klux Klan mob seized prisoners from Sheriff John W. Lynch, he made no investigation.

News

HE ADMITTED hearing of other acts of intimidation by the Klan, but made no effort to track them down. Nobody, he said, complained to him.

Fri. 12-9-49

And though he, the sheriff and two other deputies were armed, Hartline declared, no effort was made to draw their weapons and regain their prisoners.

The 55-year-old deputy added that even when the Klansmen came rolling back into Trenton, Ga., after the seizure, he made no effort to learn their identies, but just stood around and watched.

Nor was that all. Hartline declared that after the seizure of the prisoners at Hooks Hill, the sheriff raced back into town to raise a posse to regain custody of the Negroes—not the K. K. K. mob.

Hartline, together with Sheriff Lynch, two other deputies and six private citizens are charged by the government with conspiring to have the seven Negroes arrested falsely and surrendered to the hooded night riders for whipping.

* * *

THE ADMISSIONS WERE all prodded out of Hartline during a cross examination by U. S. Dist. Atty. J. Ellis Mundy.

Hartline said the blackjacking incident took place last December when war veteran Henry B. Keith came up to him and cursed Hartline for not stopping the demonstration.

Georgia Klan Joins Alabama Unit, Says Roper

ROME—(AP)—Ku Klux Klan Imperial Wizard Samuel Roper yesterday announced "a working agreement" has been reached with the Federated Klans of Alabama.

Roper, head of the Associated Klans of America of the Association of Georgia Klans, added that the "agreement eventually will lead to consolidation."

Such a consolidation would unite the two largest Klans of the South leaving only two, possibly three, Klans outside the fold.

Unification of all Klans has been Roper's aim since the death of the late Imperial Wizard Samual Green.

Roper said the agreement was reached at a conference Sunday with head of the Alabama organization, William Hugh Morris, a Birmingham contractor.

A consolidation would leave only the small Klans in Florida, South Georgia, and the one recently announced as including all Klans in South and North Carolina, on the fringes.

The South Georgia organization, Original Southern Klans, Inc., and the Florida group, headed by house painter William Hendrix, however, are believed to one and the same.

Roper, here as a witness in the Federal trial of 12 men in the case of seven flogged Nogroes, said the formation of the South Carolina-North Carolina group represented a desertion.

The graying, former head of the Georgia Bureau of Investigation said he appointed Thomas H. Hamilton as Grand Dragon for South Carolina on Sept. 2.

It was Hamilton who announced formation of the Carolina Federation.

"As soon as he got acquainted with all the Klaverns," Roper added, "Hamilton attempted to pull them out from the Association of Georgia Klans. I believe the majority of the Carolina Klaverns will remain loyal to the parent organization."

Precisely how many Klansmen the expected consolidation will affect is unknown, but Roper has said previously that his organization numbered members "in the hundreds of thousands."

The Federated Klans of Alabama an estimated 30,000 members.

Even since the break up of the post World War I Klan in the early 1930's, a succession of Klan leaders has sought to bring about unification.

From the Klansman's point of view, unity has a sound historical precedent. During the decade 1920-30 to the dissolution of the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan under Federal attack, the organization was a powerful political factor in the South. Roper hopes to return the Klan to that position of power and wealth.

Flog Case Jury at Rome Recesses for 2d Night

By BEM PRICE

ROME—(AP)—Weary jurors recessed for the second night without reaching a decision in the trial of 10 white men for the flogging of seven Negroes.

The Federal Jury, which has spent nearly 19 hours in fruitless deliberation, will meet again this morning.

Late yesterday afternoon, the jury foreman announced members had not reached agreement. He said there had been "no change in the deliberations since the first ballot" but did not give the numerical division.

Federal Judge Frank A. Hooper ordered the jurors back to their room for further study. He reminded them that jurors had been known to change their minds.

Mistrial Is Ordered In Civil Rights Case

Jury Deadlocked Since First Ballot, Seven For Conviction, Five Acquittal, Says Foreman

BY BEM PRICE

ROME, Ga., Dec. 17—(AP)—The mass civil rights trial of 10 men with its tales of seven flogged Negroes and night riding Ku Klux Klansmen ended in a mistrial today.

The decision was made by U. S. District Judge Frank A. Hooper after Jury Foreman Herman D. Casey, Jr., Rome auto salesman, announced a hopeless deadlock.

Casey said that, since the first ballot, the jury had been divided seven for conviction, five for acquittal.

Defense Atty. Frank M. Gleason, of Rossville, Ga., said, "I think it is a signal victory for the defense."

* * *

No Emotion

The defendants received the decision with little expression.

U. S. Dist. Atty. J. Ellis Mundy could not be reached for comment.

Each defendant was accused in a two-count indictment of plotting to deprive seven Negroes of their constitutional rights by arresting them "without cause" April 2 and then surrendering them to a Ku Klux Klan mob for whipping.

The government charged in the U. S. District Court, the Negroes were thus deprived of their rights to be immune from illegal punishment and to receive equal protection under the law.

* * *

113 Witnesses

SINCE NOV. 21 the jurors have been bombarded with nearly 900,000 words of testimony from 113 witnesses.

The government tried to show there had been a conspiracy by the defendants and the Ku Klux Klan to seize and beat the Negroes.

Defense Atty. Frank M. Gleason contended the matter properly belonged in state courts as a matter of assault and battery and was not within jurisdiction of the federal government.

Cross Was Burned

The case had its beginning the night of April 2 in Hooker, Ga., in the most northwesterly of Georgia's hills.

There, the government charged the hooded and robed members of the "invisible empire" went that night to burn a cross before the home of Mrs. Mamie Clay, a Negro.

From the Clay home, seven Negroes were driven to a hollow and then marched up a hill.

There the Negroes were made to remove their trousers, and then were beaten.

* * *

Many 'Coincidences'

LYNCH AND HIS deputies testified they never saw the seven Negroes who claimed they were flogged, but only two others they were holding for drunkenness.

Lynch said the two Negroes were seized from him by the night riders.

Seeking to bolster the conspiracy charge, the government brought in three witnesses to tell of Klansmen calling that same night to warn on moral matters.

Deputy William Hartline and Defendant Sam Peters, Baptist evangelistic singer, admitted building and delivering the cross to Hooker Hill. Hartline testified it was a coincidence that he was at Hooker Hill about the time it was burned. Peters said he was there in plain clothes with his wife as an innocent bystander.

Another defendant, Truman Purcell, 55-year-old carpenter, admitted he was at the cross burning but took no part in the seizure. He said the Klansmen were imported from another section under the leadership of Kleagle (Organizer) Walter Arp, of Rossville. Purcell identified himself as the former exalted cyclops of the Provisional Klavern at Trenton. One of the beaten Negroes, Charlie Roberts, said the sheriff was present when the seizure took place and the Klansman "told us they was gonna hang us."

DADE COUNTY OFFICERS, DEFENDANTS, RELAX DURING ROME COURT RECESS
From Left: Sheriff John W. Lynch, Deputy John Bleckley and Deputy Stokes McCauley

Watched Klan Attack, Witness Tells Court

Hid in Vines, Government Testifier Says; Saw Mob Member Seize Negroes

By C. E. GREGORY, Journal Staff Writer

ROME, Nov. 29.—The government Tuesday proceeded with its prosecution, following the testimony in Federal court here Monday of a Negro who told the jury he witnessed an alleged Ku Klux Klan raid and a series of floggings in Dade county last April.

Put on the stand as the government's eye-witness, Harold Roberts testified that he had hidden himself in a cluster of honeysuckle vines, near the scene of a cross-burning across the road from the home of his cousin, Mamie Clay, on April 2. He said he concealed himself in the honeysuckle vines so he would not be at home in case the klansmen visited him that night. He said he identified some of the mob members because there was a light on the front porch of Mamie Clay's house.

Roberts said he saw a car belonging to Sheriff John William Lynch, of Dade county, pull into the woman's driveway and stop. He said he then saw about 30 men in Klan uniforms go into her yard three or four at a time. There were three or four persons not in Klan robes, Roberts said.

Two of the men went to the front door and knocked, but he could not hear what was said, Roberts testified. He went on to say that several Negro men came out of the house and got into their own cars, but "the sheriff and his deputies dragged them out and put them in the sheriff's car."

Saw Sheriff, He Says

Later Deputy Sheriff William M. Hartline opened the door to the sheriff's car, took the colored men out and put them into a jeep station wagon, Roberts declared. Then the sheriff's car drove away, he said, followed by the jeep station wagon.

Roberts said he did not see any of the Negro men later, because most of them were from Chattanooga. However, he said, he found out that seven Negroes were taken out of the station wagon and beaten not far from the Clay home.

Sheriff Lynch, deputies Hartline, N. Stokes McCauley, John Bleckley and eight other Dade county residents are on trial here before U. S. District Judge Frank A Hooper for alleged violation of the federal civil rights laws.

Druggist Defendant

One of the defendants is Terrell T. Wheeler, a Trenton druggist. He has been identified as secretary of the provisional Trenton klan. One witness has testified that the Trenton klan held its meetings in a room behind the Wheeler pharmacy.

On cross-examination, Roberts testified that he was not certain that he saw Sheriff Lynch in the crowd, "but thought a fat man was the sheriff." He said he knew the sheriff's gray Ford car and knew it was at the scene. He also said he positively identified deputies Hartline and McCauley in the crowd.

Mamie Clay described a cross "12 feet tall and wrapped in burlap" that she said was burned as part of the alleged beating incident. She retracted a statement that she had given the Georgia Bureau of Investigation to the effect that she did not recognize any of the men who called upon her to "get rid of all her company."

Sticks to Affidavit

However, she stuck to an affidavit she had given the Federal Bureau of Investigation saying she recognized deputy sheriff Hartline.

She claimed that "Mr. Hilton," of the GBI, did not properly identify himself, and she was afraid to tell him the truth. On the other hand, George Dillard, of the FBI, was identified to her by her boss, who told her to tell the truth to him.

Previously during the day Clarence Roberts, a cousin of Harold Roberts and a brother of Charles Roberts, one of the flogged Negroes, had identified deputy sheriff Hartline, Wheeler and Sam Peters as having been in a crowd that was setting up the klan cross opposite the Clay home. He said that deputy Hartline was dressed in his police uniform and "seemed like the boss." Wheeler was identified as the "big fat fellow who was pouring oil on the cross."

HEAR KEY WITNESS IN KU KLUX TRIAL

Woman Tells of 'Trouble' with Police

By BEN PRICE
(The Associated Press)

Rome, Ga., Nov. 28—A Negro woman Monday told of "troubles" with police after she refused to sell her home.

The witness was Mamie Clay, one of the keys in the government's case against 12 men accused of conspiring to violate the civil rights of seven flogged Negroes.

On trial are Sheriff John W. Lynch, three of his deputies and eight private citizens. Each is accused by the government of conspiring to arrest the Negroes falsely and turn them over to a mob of 50 to 75 men in Ku Klux Klan robes April 2.

A Negro church deacon, Clarence Roberts, 34-year-old laborer, testified he had seen deputy William Hartline and two other defendants at a cross burning before the Clay home.

Mamie Clay told of a stranger knocking on her door one winter night about 2 a. m. and asking if she wanted to sell her property. She didn't.

Later her home was raided by three deputies and she was arrested for running a disorderly house but subsequently was acquitted.

The next incident, she said, was the night the Ku Klux Klan came calling and she recognized one of the men as deputy Hartline. They accused her of having wild parties.

The robed Klansmen ordered seven Negroes who were visiting her son, William, to leave. The visitors left by the back door and she did not know whether they were seized or not.

Georgia Civil Rights Trial Ended As Jury Quits After 48-Hour Fight

By The Associated Press.

ROME, Ga., Dec. 17—The mass civil rights trial of ten men with its tales of seven flogged Negroes and night-riding Ku Klux Klansmen ended in a mistrial today.

The decision was made by Federal District Judge Frank A. Hooper after Herman D. Casey Jr., the jury's foreman, announced a hopeless deadlock.

Mr. Casey, a Rome auto salesman, said that since the first ballot the jury had been divided seven for conviction and five for acquittal.

The jury returned to the court room forty-eight hours after the case was received at 2:45 P. M. on Thursday.

Frank M. Gleason of Rossville, Ga., the defense attorney, said:

"I think it is a signal victory for the defense."

As for the defendants, they received the decision with little expression, fully aware they still are subject to further prosecution.

Federal District Attorney J. Ellis Mundy could not be reached for comment.

Each of the ten defendants was accused in a two-count indictment of plotting to deprive seven Negroes of their constitutional rights by arresting them "without cause" April 2 and then surrendering them to a Ku Klux Klan group for whipping.

By so doing, the Government charged in Federal District Court, the Negroes were deprived of their rights to be immune from illegal punishment and to receive equal protection under the law.

It was a weary and slightly grim jury that handed in the verdict. Since Nov. 21 the jurors had heard nearly 900,000 words of testimony from 113 witnesses, sixty-seven of them for the Government.

Throughout eighteen days of testimony and legal wrangling the Government tried to show that there had been a conspiracy by the defendants and the Ku-Klux Klan to seize and beat the Negroes.

Mr. Gleason fought back with the contention that the matter properly belonged in state courts as a matter of assault and battery and was not within the jurisdiction of the Federal Government.

On trial were Sheriff John W. Lynch of Dade County, three of his deputies and six private citizens.

The case had its beginning the night of April 2 in the tiny community of Hooker, Ga., in the most northwesterly of Georgia's hills, twelve miles southeast of Chattanooga, Tenn.

There, the Government charged, the hooded and robed members of the "invisible empire" went that early spring night to burn a cross before the home of Mrs. Mamie Clay, a Negro.

The seizure was preceded, the Government went on, by a cross burning and prayer meeting atop Hooker Hill.

From the Clay home the seven Negroes were driven to a hollow and then marched, one by one, a Klansman on each side, up a hill. At the top the Negroes were made to remove their trousers and then were beaten with sticks, ropes and leather straps.

The Government tried to prove it was part of the plot that the Negroes were arrested by the Dade officers.

Mr. Lynch and his deputies testified they never saw the seven Negroes who said they were flogged, but only two others they were holding for drunkeness. He said these two Negroes were the ones seized from him by the crowd of fifty to seventy-five night-riders.

Mr. Gleason argued that the presence of the Dade officers at Hooker as the Klan arrived was just an "unfortunate" coincidence.

In its efforts to bolster the conspiracy charge, the Government brought in three witnesses to tell of Klansmen calling that same night to warn of moral matters.

Deputy William Hartline and Sam Peters, a Baptist Evangelistic singer, admitted building and delivering the cross to Hooker Hill. Hartline testified, though that it was just a coincidence that he was at Hooker Hill about the time it was burned, while Peters said he was there in ordinary clothing with his wife as an innocent bystander.

Another defendant, Truman Purcell, 55 years old, a carpenter, admitted that he was at the cross-burning but took no part in the seizure. He said the Klansmen were brought from another section under the leadership of Kleagle Walter Arp of Rossville. These were the men, said Purcell, who did the whipping.

Purcell identified himself as the former Exalted Cyclops of the Provisional Klavern at Trenton. One of the beaten Negroes, Charlie Roberts, said the sheriff was present when the seizure took place and the Klansman "told us they was gonna hang us."

Roberts said he appealed to Lynch.

"I asked the sheriff," he said, "'You are the sheriff, can't you help us?' But he just turned his back and walked away."

Too Slow On The Draw For Klan Sheriff States

Claims That He Saw Only Two Of The Flog Victims

ROME, Ga. — The sheriff who is charged with aiding in the flogging of seven Negroes last April testified Friday that he tried to stop the mob but was too slow on the draw.

Sheriff John W. Lynch said he started to draw his gun when a white-robed Ku Klux Klansman pressed a hard object against his back and warned:

"Don't reach for your gun."

Lynch, one of 10 defendants, including three deputy sheriffs, who are charged by the Government with conspiring to falsely arrest and turn the Negroes over to Klansmen, said the man added:

"The hell with you. We'd just as soon kill you as the Negroes." The sheriff was the last of the 10 defendants to testify. He swore he saw only two of the seven Negroes — the two he arrested for drunkenness.

"I told them," Lynch said, "you gentlemen are making a mistake to interfere with the law making an arrest."

To this, he told the court, a Klansman answered:

"Damn you and the law."

When Klansmen ordered the officer to leave, Lynch said, the law officers went back to Trenton, Ga., to raise a posse, but the Klan returned before they succeeded.

Cross-examination was postponed until Monday as Federal court was recessed for the weekend.

Prior to the sheriff taking the stand in the trial Friday, government attorneys completed their cross-examination of Deputy John Bleckley a cotton spinner. Bleckley stated that he had wanted to identify the Klansmen who took the prisoners from Sheriff Lynch and him but further indicated that he felt he had no right to look under their hoods. Bleckley is employed as a part-time deputy sheriff.

Bleckley also stated that he had refused to give the FBI any information concerning the seizure of the flog victims. This however, according to Bleckley was because the FBI agents came to both the front and back doors of his home. Bleckley added that "they treated me like I was a criminal."

Dade Flog Defendants' Fate In Hands of U. S. Jury

By BEM PRICE

ROME—(AP)—The Government's case against 10 men accused of depriving seven Negroes of their civil rights was given to a Federal Court Jury yesterday.

The jury received the case at 2:45 p. m. after a two-hour-and-25-minute charge by Federal Judge Frank A. Hooper.

Judge Hooper wound up the 17-day legal battle by warning the jury against carrying local prejudices into the jury room.

The trial is the first in history in which the Federal Civil Rights Statutes were invoked against law enforcement officers and alleged members of a mob simultaneously.

Accused are Dade County Sheriff John W. Lynch, three of his deputies and six private citizens.

Each is accused in Count One of the two-count indictment returned Aug. 3 of having the Negroes arrested falsely and surrendered to a Ku Klux Klan mob for flogging.

The second count charges conspiracy was carried out by the officers acting in their official capacity as State representatives, or under "color of law," in collaboration with the other defendants.

Judge Hooper emphasized that the Ku Klux Klan had entered the case only as a circumstance and that the band of hooded night riders was not an issue.

The Judge expressed the hope "you have no feeling that the Federal Government is coming into Georgia to step on the toes of anyone."

"I would be the last," he declared, "to sanction an encroachment of the Federal Government on the States or an encroachment the other way."

The Judge also observed:

"You may think the Klan is good or bad . . . but it is not legally material whether any of the defendants were members of the Klan save insofar as this membership may throw light on the charge."

He cautioned against any prejudices concerning race with the words, "The rights of all citizens to the benefits of our Constitution are accorded equally and with exact application to all persons whether they be good or bad, black or white, red, yellow or brown or whether they adopt your creed or mine."

After seven hours debate the jury retired for the night.

Report Georgia Minister Beaten By Hooded Band

A band of hooded men who molested and flogged a Claxton, Ga. minister last week are still at large. according to official sources this week.

The Rev. George A. Perkins, a 69-year-old preacher who pastored three South Georgia churches is alleged to have been taken for a "nite ride" by a group of hooded men who beat him because "he told Negroes that they were as good as whites and encouraged them to go to the polls and vote."

It was reported that the minister was taken from his home at night and taken three miles away from town. There the men beat him in front of a white church. He is reported to have been given [illegible] lashes.

C. L. Harper, president of the local branch of the NAACP stated Wednesday that this organization is interested in the case of Rev. Perkins. Mr. Harper indicated that news of the incident came to his office only a few days ago and that a thorough background of the case has not yet been revealed.

Jurors Are Out Only 66 Minutes Deciding Verdict

Accused Still Faces Four Other Cases Involving Flogging

A jury deliberated only 66 minutes Saturday afternoon before finding Coleman A. (Brownie) Lollar not guilty of a charge of flogging while masked.

The decision, after four days of testimony, brought a burst of applause from the packed courtroom. Lollar was quickly surrounded by friends and well-wishers who slapped him on the back.

Circuit Judge Robert J. Wheeler had warned against any demonstrations. The only possibility of a flareup was quickly averted when friends of Lollar hustled Robert E. Chambliss, ex-city employe out of the courtroom.

Chambliss, who is under indictment on a charge of flogging while masked, ran up to Lollar at the end of the trial and said: "We've got some dirty sons of guns. . . ."

He was told to keep quiet and hustled out of the room.

The jury received the case at 3:14 p.m. and reached its verdict at 4:20.

Lollar, a 35-year-old ex-special deputy, still faces trial on four other flogging charges. He also is charged with burglary and boycotting.

His trial was the first for 18 men indicted as the result of a Summer Grand Jury investigation of night riding activities in Western Jefferson County.

* * *

CIRCUIT SOLICITOR Emmett Perry said the trials will be taken "one by one as we come to them." He added action will be taken Monday morning to set the next trial.

"They will be tried one by one in open court until they all have had a fair and impartial trial," Perry said.

Lollar was charged with flogging Mrs. Edna McDanal, 42-year-old Westwood grandmother, on the night of June 10.

Testifying in his own behalf, Lollar said he was at a Birmingham baseball game that night. Three other residents of Praco testified they were at the game with him.

Some 20 defense witnesses, mostly from teh West Jefferson or Westwood area, testified either to Lollar's "good" reputation or to Mrs. McDanal's "bad" reputation.

State witnesses had placed Lollar at the scene of a dozen floggings.

Mrs. McDanal said she lifted the hood from his face when robed, masked and hooded men invaded her home, manhandled her and forced her to witness a crossburning.

One lash victim said he heard Lollar's laugh during a flogging. Two others testified they recognized Lollar's voice at a flogging.

* * *

Judge Overrules

DEFENSE ATTY. George Rogers, in his argument to the jury, referred to the identification of Lollar in other floggings byasserting, "The state, in this case, has talked about everything but the McDanal case, and not for what he may or may not have done in these other cases."

Testimony about hte other floggings was admitted by Judge Wheeler under a ruling the state had the right to "attempt to show a behavior pattern."

The state showed the floggings preceding the McDanal incident took place on three successive Friday nights. It was on a Friday night, June 17, just one week after the McDanal incident, Lollar was found guarding cars for a meeting of the Stonewall Jackson Klavern of the Ku Klux Klan in Adamsville.

Two state witnesses, who identified themselves as Klansmen, said they were at the June 10 meeting of the Adamsville Klavern. They said the raid on Mrs. McDanal's home started from that meeting.

Court proceedings Saturday included an admission by the state a letter introduced by the solicitors as evidence—and bearing Lollar's return address — was not in his handwriting. The letter was mailed to the mother of lash victim Jack Alexander two days after the flogging. It had $10 enclosed to pay for smashing a door of the Alexander home—and threatened a return visit.

C. D. BROOKS, state toxicologist and handwriting expert, testified the handwriting was similar to that of Lollar's. He said the similarity could have resulted from the letter writer and Lollar having been taught by the same teacher, having the same general environment or having seen each other writing frequently.

Ben Allen, state criminal investigator, was the last witness Saturday. He testified he spoke to Lollar at the Klan parking lot on the night of June 17.

Allen said he told Lollar the state was considering revocation of the charters of all hooded orders. Allen said in response, Lollar told him: "Then that would mean the end of the Klan because they could not go on raids without hoods. The best thing for me to do is get out. This will be my last night."

During final arguments, Solicitors Perry and Cecil M. Deason asked for a conviction "to end masked mob rule" in Alabama.

Mr. Perry urged the jury to "say by your verdict to Coleman Lollar 'your rule and reign of terror are at an end.' Tell this man with a lash he is not above the law."

Perry referred constantly to the difference between a trial such as Lollar had and to one "held in the secret Klaverns."

"I want you to contrast this trial with those held in the Klan Klaverns in the dark of night. Where is the record from those trials?"

Rogers, in his argument, said the state had only one witness, Mrs. McDanal. "And," he said, "every decent person from her community has paraded before you and told you they would not believe her under oath."

William Hugh Morris, chief of the Federated Ku Klux Klans, was a spectator at the trial for the first time Saturday morning. During a brief recess, he walked over to Lollar and shook hands.

The Adamsville Klavern and Robert E. Lee Klan, which Lollar said he belonged to, are in the Federated Klans.

Alabama Klansmen Back at Old Tricks

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Cross burning in Cullman and a white-robed caravan in Tuscaloosa the night of Dec. 21 featured KKK activities.

In front of the home of D. O McCoy, chairman of the new Cullman City electric board, a TVA power licensee, burned the first cross in the memory of Cullman citizens. A small motorcade of Klansmen paraded through two Negro communities of Tuscaloosa.

— "FORTIETH IN '50" —

Acme

***Unmasked Klan:** Abiding by the newly enacted Alabama law against masks, 60 KKK members recently paraded brazenly through Pell City with their faces as well as their shirts hanging out. But some of them mitigated the effect with Hollywood-style cheaters.*

ALABAMA

"It Sure Was Pretty"

The trial was probably the biggest prosecution of the Ku Klux Klan since reconstruction days. In Birmingham, Ala., 18 men had been indicted for the brutal wave of floggings, cross-burnings and intimidation that swept Alabama's hill country last summer.

The atmosphere was informal. In the corridors of Jefferson County's big stone courthouse, the gossip and laughter were loud. There were strike-idled coal miners and old men who shave only once every three days and carry canes. Klansmen posed for pictures smiling broadly, friendly-like. Inside the courtroom, mild old Judge Robert J. Wheeler fingered his speckled white mustache. Occasionally he spat delicately into his cuspidor.

The judge was tolerant. He interrupted the proceedings to point out a chair for a late-arriving spectator; he didn't mind when plump George Rogers, attorney for the defense, propped his leg or rump on the table during cross-examination.

On the Front Porch. First defendant to go to trial was self-assured, balding Coleman A. ("Brownie") Lollar. Lollar operated a scuttle-sized coal mine. He had also been a special deputy sherriff.

His accuser was Mrs. Hugh McDanal, 42, wife of a night truck driver. One night last June a gang of robed Klansmen broke into her house, accused her of "dancing nude on her front porch," renting rooms to unmarried couples, and selling whisky. They hit her a couple of times, then hustled her outside in her nightgown to watch a cross burn on her front lawn. ("It sure was pretty," testified a neighbor.)

Mrs. McDanal snatched at the Klans-

Associated Press

ROGERS & LOLLAR

It takes a hundred years . . .

men's hoods, tore off several. One of them was Lollar, she said.

Boyd Killingsworth, a gangly youth, admitted that the raid had originated at a meeting of the Adamsville klavern presided over by Brownie's brother. "We stopped by the highway and robed up," said Killingsworth. At the McDanal house, "I helped direct traffic."

Before the grand jury, Killingsworth had testified under oath that Brownie Lollar was there, too. But on the stand, he could not remember saying that—not even when it was read back to him.

Another witness declared that she recognized Lollar's voice among a hooded mob that had hauled her mother, her sister and herself, together with three men visitors, into the woods and whipped the three of them with a rope after a preacher had prayed over them. A man whipped by the Klan testified: "I recognized Brownie Lollar when he laughed at me."

"I'll Take Four." But Brownie was confident. He admitted that he had once been a member of the K.K.K., but swore that he had resigned. When was that? Well, the end of June (three weeks after the McDanal raid). Anyway, the night of the raid he was at a ball game, and he had three witnesses to prove it.

The defense also paraded 14 witnesses who said that they would not believe Mrs. McDanal under oath, and also produced what it claimed were pictures of Mrs. McDanal posing nude in a cornfield. The judge refused to admit them, but the defense waved them around carelessly and later, quite a few men came up to look more closely. Said one: "I'll take four copies of that one." Everybody laughed.

The jury took slightly more than an hour to decide that Brownie Lollar was not guilty. The courtroom broke into applause. Seventeen others were still to be tried, among them a high-school coach, a minister and a police chief. Lollar himself had four other charges of flogging to meet. Said County Solicitor Emmett Perry wearily: "Someone once said that it takes a hundred years to do anything worth doing. We hope at least to better that."

Associated Press

MRS. HUGH MCDANAL
. . . to do anything worth doing.

Ex-Sheriff Identified as Masked Raider

Birmingham, Ala., Oct. 26 (AP)—The woman victim of hooded hoodlums today identified Coleman A. (Brownie) Lollar, former special deputy sheriff, as one of the masked men who raided her home last June 10.

The witness was Mrs. Edna McDanal, 42-year-old grandmother whose home was broken into by robed men who forced her to

Mrs. McDanal

Lollar

watch a cross burning on her lawn.

Lollar is charged with flogging while masked in the McDanal case. That offense is punishable by imprisonment from one to 10 years. He also is charged with the same offense in four other cases, and with first degree burglary.

The burglary indictment is based on charges of breaking and entering an occupied dwelling at night. It is a capital charge under Alabama law.

The former special officer is the Judge Robert J. Wheeler, who sentenced Klan director William Hugh Morris to jail for contempt of court for refusal to produce Klan membership lists.

Morris spent 67 days in jail before he wrote a partial list from memory and was released.

Lollar denied to reporters that he was a member of the Klan.

The witness said the men jerked a shotgun from her hands, hit her twice with "I don't know what," and dragged her outside.

"All of them had pistols," she testified. "They threatened to whip me, and accused me of selling whisky and renting my rooms to couples."

The case is being heard before first to face trial of a group of 18 men indicted by grand juries here after a wave of masked mob violence last May and June.

Mrs. McDanal, the first witness, pointed out Lollar as one of 10 or 12 men who broke into her home. She recognized Lollar, she said, "when I pulled his hood up to look at his face."

Tell It To Old Grandma

Letters to the editor must carry complete name and street address of the writer, though pen names may be used at the editor's discretion. Letters of less than 200 words are given preference. All letters may be cut.

Mr. Priester's Letter Summoning The Kluxers

EDITOR, THE ADVERTISER — Mr. Priester should be commended. Few men would have had the courage in their convictions to write an open letter advising Klan action anent the recent case of the tragic death of little Melinda Ellen Smith.

As for his convictions themselves, I have other and different opinions. I am not so much incensed at Mr. Priester himself as I am at the class of people he has made himself represent, people who must forever substitute for an actual superiority of person or accomplishment with a self-assumed and groundless superiority to such things as minority races or religions and, above all, the law itself.

I am reminded of a conversation that recently took place in this (Butler) county during the trial of one James Anderson, a Negro boy, for the alleged murder of one Sam Stacy, a white man. The boy was tried and acquitted by an all-white jury. Nevertheless, there were those who deemed themselves superior to the law and who, ignorant of the facts, were willing to judge for themselves the Negro's fate and form a lynching party.

The conversation went something like this: Two men were talking. One remarked that he and a few others could see that the "nigger" got what was coming to him. The other questioned whether the Negro had actually killed the white man, to which the first replied that he knew the Negro killed him. The other said the court didn't know, and presented the question of justifiability, to which the first answered that "no nigger is justified in killing a white man."

There is a parallel between the two cases: both assume facts of which there is no knowledge; both are willing to circumvent the law, law as being useful or useless according to whether the sense of justice of a man on a "higher plane" than the rest of us is justified; both advocate mob violence, something as foreign to the American sense of liberty and democracy as Red communism itself.

The very existence of the Ku Klux Klan in Alabama is one of our state's and the South's greatest blights. The kind of thinking that makes it possible is the same kind of thinking that has enabled the existence for so long of the South's poverty, illiteracy, and preference in matters of justice.

The Klan? Remove the law, then, and let hate take its place.

ROBERT A. BEELAND, III.
Greenville, Ala.

Where The Law Is Dear

Editor, The Advertiser:

If J. M. Priester wants to live outside the law, let him also live outside the land where the law is dear.

Greenville, Ala. A. NICHOLAS.

'I Have Lived With Threats'

Editor, The Advertiser:

I am a Jew. Throughout my life I have lived with hate and threats of lawless violence, prejudice, derision, denial of admittance by places advertising proudly: "Gentle Clientele."

I have become hardened to such things, but my nature requires that I fight them. I have never feared the Klan, or the "white trash" that predominates its ranks, but I fear for those who join it, arouse it, even allow it. I fear for them for God's certain vindication against them.

Yet I am not without misgivings in condemning Mr. L. M. Priester for his attempt to arouse the Klan against a Montgomery physician, for I have only hate in return for such hate, and had I the power, violence would I deal to those who advocate it.

FANNIE BUERGER (MRS. D. R.).
Route 2, Georgiana, Ala.

...s Passed Over 'Til Tomorrow By Judge King

Richard Lollar May Be First Defendant; Alexander Is Sick

Absence of a key witness today caused a one-day postponement in the trial of three men charged with flogging while masked.

Circuit Judge Alta L. King passed the cases over until 9 a.m. tomorrow when deputies reported they found Jack Alexander, West Jefferson flogging victim, at home in bed.

Alexander is a victim of arrested tuberculosis. He was to be examined by doctors late this afternoon to see whether he will be able to appear in court tomorrow.

The state's mystery witness—who has been kept out of the picture up to this time by the state—was reported in the courthouse today.

Absence of Alexander and two other key state witnesses delayed the state in its second trial on the flogging charges. Before a roll call of witnesses by Judge King this morning, the state indicated it would be ready in some 10 cases against the three defendants.

The speculation was that Richard C. Lollar, charged in one case of flogging while masked and one of first degree burglary, would be the state's first choice for trial.

Deputy Solicitor Cecil Deason later told the court he could not proceed with any of the trials until he found out Alexander's condition. He said it was imperative to have him on hand for the trial of A. B. Carradine, a mechanic.

* * *

ALSO TO BE TRIED is the Rev. R. C. Lyons, itinerant minister.

When the docket was sounded for the Carradine case, someone called out that Jack Alexander was sick. Deason talked to Bobby Alexander, Jack's younger brother, and asked the court to have the missing man summoned immediately.

The deputies reported back that Alexander was in bed and said he was sick. Deason arranged to have a doctor visit the youth. Defense attorneys urged that the county doctor be sent immediately to see Alexander in order to get some 60 to 70 witnesses back to work but later agreed to a 4 p.m. doctor's examination of the missing witness.

Also missing and summoned by the court were Felix Houten, Praco, admitted ex-Klansman, who testified in the last trial, and Elizabeth Sander, another flogging victim.

Only a portion of the defense witnesses for the various cases were on hand.

* * *

RICHARD LOLLAR, Lyons and Carradine, along with 14 others, were indicted by the Grand Jury after a wave of floggings and night-riding activities in Jefferson County last May and June.

Lollar, reputed cyclops of the Stonewall Jackson Ku Klux Klan Klavern, in Adamsville, is brother to Coleman (Brownie) Lollar, first man to be tried in the flogging cases. He was found not guilty several weeks ago.

Richard Lollar is charged with breaking and entering the home of Mrs. Hugh McDanal, in Westwood, the night of June 10, and helping to manhandle her. Mrs. McDanal was dragged from her home, struck, and forced to watch a cross burn in her front yard.

It was on the same charge that Coleman Lollar was tried and freed.

Lyons is charged with flogging two men and a woman at Pumpkin Center, in Western Jefferson County, in May. He was identified by one of the victims as the man who removed his hood and prayed before each flogging.

* * *

CARRADINE is charged in four cases of flogging while masked and one of burglary.

The state is expected to call upon a "mystery witness" whose name had not entered the flogging investigation openly until two weeks ago.

The man, Ervin Leon Key, 28, was apprehended near Houston Tex., by FBI agents. He was charged with unlawful flight to avoid testifying as a state witness.

At the time Key was arrested at the bar he was managing, he was quoted as saying "Boy, my life is in danger."

HE ADMITTED that he left the jurisdiction of this court to avoid testifying in the flogging trials.

Key was not listed as a victim of any flogging, and had not been mentioned in connection with any flogging case.

He was held under a $1,000 bond, parently been held under cover, and local authorities said they and local authorities have avoided would return him here. He has ap- comment on his whereabouts.

Hoods Pay Visit To Wylam Church

About 20 or 25 robed and hooded Klansmen visited the Wylam Baptist Church during the 7:30 song service last night. They took part in singing, made a contribution, and listened while one of their members commended the church for its work.

Rev. H. L. Tully said the men marched into the church and walked to the front of it. They stood with their backs to the audience during their stay. After the singing they marched quietly from the church, The Rev. Tully said.

The Klansmen were not masked, the minister said.

There is a state law which makes the wearing of a mask a misdemeanor.

The spokesman said the Klan stands for "the tenets of the Christian religion," the Rev. Tully said. The minister reported the spokesman said the Klan was "100 per cent behind the church."

The Klansmen requested singing of "The Old Rugged Cross," and joined in the singing, the minister said.

As Robed Men Watch—

Burning Of Crosses Reported In Shelby

COLUMBIANA, Ala., Nov. 14—Burning of two wooden crosses in Shelby County was being investigated today.

Shelby Sheriff Luther T. Bozeman said one of the crosses was burned in the business district of Harpersville at about 10 p.m. Saturday, and the second was fired atop a small mountain peak near Columbiana a few minutes later.

THE SHERIFF SAID witnesses told him about 12 cars were seen at both cross burnings. Witnesses added, he said, that most of the cars bore St. Clair and Jefferson County license plates.

Bozeman said he was told that robed men crowded around the two crosses while they were burning. The men were not masked.

He said apparently no law was violated.

William Hugh Morris, Mt. Olive, director of Federated Ku Klux Klans, Incorporated, said he had not heard of the crosses and that they had no special significance.

"It could be," he said, "that a bunch of the boys got together and decided to burn them just to let the people know they are there."

Jail Dixie Police Chief For Flogging

MONTGOMERY, Ala.—In a series of civil rights trials in this city and Tampa, Fla., last week, a former Alabama police chief was sentenced to a two-year jail term and given a $200 fine Saturday.

The ex-police chief is Thomas L. Gantt of Florala who was charged with having beaten five Negro prisoners with a rubber hose to force them to confess a crime.

Charges in two other indictments against Gantt were dropped after he entered a guilty plea on the first one.

In two other trials—one involving the cold blooded murder of a Negro by a policeman—all-white juries freed the defendants. Gantt did not have a jury trial. His fate was decided by Federal District Judge C. B. Kennamer.

A mistrial was declared in the case of two policemen charged with beating a white man here in Montgomery.

In another trial, here an all-white jury required only 30 minutes to decide that Orris Thrash charged with slaying Amos Starr, a Negro, in violation of his civil rights, was not guilty.

According to evidence placed before the jury, Thrash shot Starr in the back while attempting to arrest him for a misdemeanor.

Meanwhile in Tampa, Fla., a jury cleared tow Polk County officers accused of violating the civil rights of Mrs. Louise "Vicki" Houston.

The defendants, Police Chief William C. Brock and Deputy Sheriff Paul Jennings were charged with having beaten the woman with a rubber hose and cut her with a knife when she refused to disclose the whereabouts of her husband who was sought for an assault upon a railroad foreman.

The five Negroes whose rights were violated by Gantt, are Robert Lee De Vaughn, James W. Fuller, Johnny Fuller, James Louis Williams, and O'Neal Vickers.

Best Alabama News Stories Of 1949 Named

Klan Revival Is First; Pardon Board, Session Of Legislature Next

By The Associated Press

The Ku Klux Klan revival, the Legislature and the Pardon-Parole Board provided the best state stories of 1949, in the opinion of Alabama newspaper editors.

Here is how the editors ranked the top 10 Alabama stories in [illegible] Associated Press poll:

1. The Ku Klux Klan story. The wave of floggings, public indignation, indictments and trials, William Hugh Morris' stay in jail, and the legislature's adoption of an anti-masking act.

2. The long wrangle between the legislature and Gov. James E. Folsom at the 1949 legislative session.

3. The Pardon and Parole Board's new rules and actions, including the regulations barring what it termed "confidential information" from the press and public.

4. Auburn's 14-13 upset victory over Alabama in football.

5. Political angling for 1950, with States Righters and anti-States Righters, a record crop of prospective candidates for governor and statewide stump campaigns.

6. The Boswell Amendment, fixing qualifications for voter registration, ruled unconstitutional by a three-judge federal court.

7. Coal and steel strikes and long months of labor peace; violence in Shelby and Walker Counties at non-union coal mines.

8. The Chilton County indictments and auditor's report, involving wholesale charges against county political figures.

9. Racial tension in Birmingham; dynamiting of Negro homes; test of segregation angle of zoning laws.

10. Tornadoes in Tallapoosa, Blount and DeKalb Counties on Thanksgiving Day.

Closest to the top 10 was the horror crime of the year, at Talladega, where two women were slain and their bodies stuffed into a cesspool.

Representative Frank Boykin and his good-humored difficulties over the slain bear also caught the fancy of many editors.

Another Mistrial In Birmingham's Flogging Probe

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—(INS)—The second trial in Alabama's crackdown on midsummer nightriding and flogging ended in a mistrial Monday when a Birmingham jury failed to reach agreement in the case of A. B. (Byrd) Carradine after 45 hours and 13 minutes of deliberation.

Carradine, an admitted Ku Klux Klansman who had been accused of flogging, became the second of 18 indicted defendants to go free. Former Deputy Sheriff C. A. (Brownie) Lollar was acquitted of a similar charge last month.

Prosecuting attorneys for Jefferson county said a date will be set later for their next attempt to convict an alleged participant in the wave of floggings, cross-burnings and intimidations by hooded and masked men who swept through the Birmingham area during the summer.

The jury had taken the case of Carradine, a 40-year-old west Jefferson county mechanic, Saturday afternoon after hearing evidence since Tuesday morning.

Illness Of Key Witness Delays Flogging Trial

3 Birmingham Cases Put Off Until Today; Doctor Sees Ailing Man

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., Dec. 5—(AP)—Illness of a major witness today delayed trials of three men charged with masked floggings.

Reset for tomorrow were cases against Richard C. Lollar, reputed cyclops of the Ku Klux Klan at Adamsville; the Rev. R. C. Lyons, [illegible] minister; and A. B. Carradine, a mechanic.

These three and 15 others are charged with flogging and related night riding activities. Their indictments followed a wave of mob terrorism by hooded hoodlums in Jefferson (Birmingham) County last Spring.

The missing witness was Jack Alexander, one of three persons flogged last May 19 at Pumpkin Center, west of Birmingham. A physician was sent to his home.

Others flogged with Alexander were Mary Alice Henderson and Willie Stevens. In the courtroom today, Coleman A. (Brownie) Lollar, another of the 18 persons under indictment, told reporters Stevens now is employed by him at a strip coal mine.

Lollar was acquitted of one flogging case at his trial several weeks ago, but faces the same charge in other cases. At his first trial, Stevens testified he recognized Lollar's voice in the mob which whipped him. Stevens also testified he had previously worked for Lollar as a coal miner.

Coleman Lollar, an admitted former Klansman, is a brother of Richard Lollar.

One new state witness, not here for the Coleman Lollar trial, was brought here from Houston, Texas, after his arrest there by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

He is Ervin Leon Key, 28, arrested for unlawful flight to avoid testifying as a state witness. FBI agents quoted him as saying: "Boy, my life is in danger."

Key's name had not been mentioned previously in the flogging cases. He is not known as one of the victims.

Woman Describes Triple Floggings

News Tues. 12-6-49 Birmingham, Ala.

Admits She Had Babies By One Victim

The state's first witness in the flogging trial which opened here today gave an eyewitness account of a triple lashing on the night of May 19—then admitted she bore three babies of one man who was whipped with her.

The testimony was given by Mary Alice Henderson, 25, during the trial of A. B. Carradine, balding West Jefferson mechanic charged with flogging Jack Alexander while masked.

The girl said she, Alexander and Willie Stevens were lashed with a long thick belt after being carried into the woods at Pumpkin Center by a robed and hooded band.

On cross-examination by Defense Atty. Jim Gibson, she said she bore three babies to Alexander and had been "going with" him since 1941.

She also said members of the hooded gang told her before she was lashed that she was being whipped for "going with Jack."

* * *

GIBSON ASKED if she could positively identify the Rev. R. C. Lyons as the man who prayed over her at the flogging scene. She said she could.

Then she admitted that on Nov. 14 she had given a sworn statement to Gibson in which he declared: "Since thinking about it, I have decided he (Lyons) was not at the flogging May 19, 1949."

Miss Henderson testified she gave the statement to the defense attorney because other witnesses had made similar declarations. "I thought my word would not be good by itself," she said.

The Rev. Lyons is one of 18 persons under indictment on various charges growing out of night riding in Jefferson County.

THE GIRL SAID she and Alexander were snatched from the front porch of the Alexander home by hooded, robed and masked men. They were forced into the back seat of a car. A pistol was kept pointed at them during the five-mile ride to lonely Pumpkin Center, she testified.

Mary Alice Henderson said a rope was put around Alexander's back and he was led from the car only a few feet away where she heard him receive 10 licks of the leather strap.

* * *

SHE SAID SHE was lashed about five times.

The witness said just before her lashing the rope was put around her neck and she was led from the car.

A MAN PULLED his mask and hood off and kneeled and prayed for her. She was forced to kneel too, she said. Then she was whipped.

The woman said her head was put between the knees of a hooded man, her hands were tied behind her back and then she was lashed on the hips.

She said she heard the hooded men pray for a third person who was whipped only a few feet away from her and that she heard him begging them to stop hitting him.

Later, she said, she learned he was Willie Stevens.

She testified she was driven home by two of the hooded band, with several other car loads of the men as an escort.

She said she knew three of the persons involved. She named Moody Nations, George Hood and Henry Nelson, all of the West Jefferson County area.

THE NAME OF ERWIN LEON Key, state mystery witness, came up for the first time today when Defense Atty. Jim Gibson asked for the name of state witnesses so that he might question respective jurors about them.

The jury has one ex-Klansman on it. Another man who said he belonged to the Ku Klux Klan "a long time ago" was struck by the attorneys.

Mrs. Elizabeth Sanders, one of the state witnesses in the trial of Coleman (Brownie) Lollar, left the state and went to South Carolina, The News learned today.

She left Alabama before she was served with a subpoena for the Carradine trial.

THE ABSENCE of Mrs. Sanders, Felix Houten and Jack Alexander caused the postponement of the flogging trials yesterday.

Last night investigators are said to have located Houten. Alexander, who had been reported too ill to attend court yesterday, was examined by a doctor sent to his home by the state. Alexander, who is suffering from an arrested case of tuberculosis, is expected to be ready to testify today.

Attachments were issued by the court for each of the three defaulting witnesses yesterday. Deputies went first to the home of Alexander, where they reported him ill.

The search for Houten and the Sanders woman was started late in the day. The officers' investigation confirmed a rumor heard yesterday—that Mrs. Sanders had left the jurisdiction of this court.

HOUTEN WAS located without difficulty. He was said to be working in a coal mine and told officers he had not received his subpoena to appear in court.

On today's docket are cases against Richard C. Lollar, reputed cyclops of the Adamsville Ku Klux Klan; the Rev. R. C. Lyons, part-time minister, and A. B. Carradine, a mechanic.

The three men, along with 15 others, were indicted on charges of flogging and related night riding activities after robed hoodlums created a wave of terror in Jefferson County last Spring.

Lollar is the brother of Brownie Lollar, who was acquitted recently on a charge of flogging Mrs. Hugh McDanal at her Westwood home last June 10.

THE 42-YEAR-OLD grandmother was struck and beaten in her home by a group of masked thugs who broke into the house while she was alone. She was dragged from the house and forced to watch a cross burn in the front yard of her home while 50 to 75 white-robed figures looked on.

Richard Lollar is charged in the same case.

Carradine and Lyons are both charged with the flogging of three victims at Pumpkin Center last May 19. Lyons was identified by one of the victims as being the man who prayed—unmasked—before each flogging.

Solicitor Emmett Perry said early today that he thinks the state will announce ready in at least one of the flogging cases despite the "possible" absence of the Sanders woman.

DURING THE FIRST flogging trial here in October, Mrs. Sanders testified 100 hooded and robed men broke into her home on the night of April 22. She said she, her daughter Opal, and Oscar Spradlin, who also was in the home, were flogged.

She testified Brownie Lollar was one of the men who helped flog her. She also testified she recognized his voice when he called to her as the hooded band surrounded her home.

ANOTHER STATE WITNESS, Willie Stevens, has been working in a coal mine operated by Coleman Lollar, it was disclosed yesterday. Stevens has been employed at Lollar's mine since shortly after Lollar's acquittal.

During the trial of Lollar, Stevens, one of the persons whipped at Pumpkin Center, testified that "in his best judgment" Lollar was one of the masked men who flogged him.

Stevens said he recognized Lollar's laugh, but could not swear to the man's identity because he did not see him.

The witness said at that time that he had been employed by Lollar in the coal mine for about two years before the flogging.

* * *

STEVENS SAID that after he was flogged a man walked up and "laughed in his face." He said that in his best judgment the man Lollar.

Brownie Lollar is yet to be tried for the flogging of Stevens.

ON TRIAL IN FLOG CASE—A. B. Carradine (right), chats with his attorney, Jim Gibson, in Circuit Court today. Carradine went on trial before Judge Alta L. King on a charge of flogging Jack Alexander.

Caradine Expected To Testify Today At Flogging Trial

Reputed Ku Klux Klan Leader A. B. Caradine was expected to take the stand today in his own defense.

Yesterday the West Jefferson mechanic heard himself accused by a former fellow Klansman as the robed and hooded man who wielded a lash on seven flogging victims.

The witness was Irvin Leon Key. He said he fled Alabama in fear of his life after being threatened by the Klan from which he had been forced to resign.

Caradine, one of 18 persons indicted for flogging and related charges, is being tried specifically for the flogging of Jack Alexander on the night of May 19.

THE DEFENSE LED OFF this morning with a group of character witnesses attacking the creditability of Key and other state witnesses and supporting the "general good reputation" of Caradine.

Caradine's attorney called A. T. Wood, Sr., Westwood, treasurer of the Masonic Lodge at Adamsville, to the stand to show that the Klan is entitled to use the hall there only on Friday nights.

(Other Testimony, Page 61)

Jack Alexander was flogged on a Thursday night, and Key testified the Kluxers left from the Adamsville lodge hall. Wood said he didn't know who rented the hall for the Klan. He said no individuals were mentioned and no lease was signed.

He said the only Klansman he was sure of is his son, A. T. Wood, Jr.

Wood's son had just left the witness stand after testifying to the "bad character" of Mrs. Hugh McDanal, flogged on the night of June 10. Young Wood, on cross-examination, admitted he sat only 60 feet away, watched the cross burning and saw Mrs. McDanal brought outside in a nightgown. He said he did not notify officers or try to help.

"I just watched," he said.

G. P. COOPER, of near Jasper, Key's brother-in-law, led off the attack on the state's star witness. Cooper said he would not believe Key under oath.

Other defense witnesses who attacked Key's reputation are Elbert Barnes, Tuscaloosa, bakery supervisor; E. R. Hill, Jasper, baker supervisor; Sam Tombrelli, Cardiff, for who Key worked for two and a half years, and J. D. Wade, Brighton salesman.

E. L. Tillson, J. A. Ferguson and James Lynn, all of Adamsville, testified to Mrs. McDonal's "bad reputation."

T. H. Word, of Flat Creek, and Erskine Tidmore, Belview Heights, both testified to Caradine's "good reputation."

THE STATE rested its case after Key's testimony, which was the supporting link for most of the witnesses who preceded him. Much of the testimony given by earlier state witnesses was admitted on the condition the state would later "connect it" with Caradine. Key placed him at the scene of the floggings and at various Klan meetings.

Defense Atty. Jim Gibson began his fight to clear Caradine with a string of character witnesses. Fifteen testified in an hour and a half that Caradine's general reputation in the community was "good." They also attacked the general reputation of Jack Alexander and Mary Alice Henderson, flogging victims.

Sworn affidavits signed by Jack and Bobby Alexander were back in the limelight today. The statements said, in effect, that the Alexanders were mistaken in their identity of the Rev. R. C. Lyons as a member of the robed flogging party May 19.

The statements were obtained after a visit to the Alexander home by Attys. George Rogers, Gibson and Charles Hewett.

Rogers is attorney for Lyons, also under indictment. Gibson is attorney for Caradine. Hewett is Gibson's law partner.

Jack Alexander was recalled briefly to the stand and testified that last Saturday he met Rogers in a West Jefferson store.

Alexander denied telling Rogers the reason he was repudiating his sworn statement was a threat from the solicitor's office of a penitentiary sentence for perjury.

* * *

BOTH OF THE ALEXANDERS have repudiated the sworn statements.

This morning, the defense called as a witness Thomas Meadow, a court reporter employed by Rogers, Gibson and Hewett to take the sworn statements.

Meadow testified that Rogers spent 15 to 20 minutes talking to Jack Alexander and "told Jack Alexander he just wanted him to tell the truth."

"Mr. Rogers spoke in the first person in dictating, and after each sentence, Mr. Rogers would ask Jack Alexander if that was right," Meadow testified, "and he would say yes or no or give his version."

The Alexanders had testified earlier that Rogers mentioned the signing of blank papers, but Atty. Gibson had vetoed the idea. Meadow testified he didn't hear anything said about blank papers.

On cross-examination, Meadow said, "Mr. Rogers did most of the talking. They were talking to Jack Alexander about his testimony in the previous trial."

Meadow was asked: "Isn't it true that Mr. Rogers said: 'Jack, you identified the preacher in the trial of Lollar.' and then questioned him about that?"

Jack Alexander's statement was given to Meadow on the stand, and the witness was asked to find any reference to that conversation. He couldn't and said: "All that's there is what Rogers dictated."

* * *

MEADOW ALSO said he thought Caradine's name was mentioned and he remembers the mention of the name of Brett Brasfield, also under indictment.

Called to the stand also today were: Deputy Sheriff Earl Cooper, who testified about going to the home of Mrs. McDanal. He said Mrs. McDanal told him she didn't "know any" of the masked men.

On cross-examination Cooper said she did not say that she could not identify any of the men.

The two men whom Key accused of wanting him to leave the state took the stand briefly.

They were Roscoe Fowler and Glenn Godfrey, both of Sumiton. Both denied threatening Key.

* * *

KEY SAID HE RODE to Klan meetings with Fowler on the night of two whippings. Fowler denied he was a Klan member and said he had never ridden in a car with Key.

Further character witnesses called to the stand to support Caradine's "good reputation" were Prof. J. G. Manuel, principal of West Jefferson High, and R. L. Matthews and John Sexton, both of West Jefferson, and Mrs. Euel Goggans, also of West Jefferson.

Defense witnesses yesterday were the Rev. Autry Powell, Westwood Baptist Church; A. L. Brasfield, Mr. and Mrs. Ace Swann, Mrs. G. W. Reed, Mr. and Mrs. John Short, B. I. Fuller, Colven Golden, all of West Jefferson.

R. B. Brasfield, Dora; Mrs. Kathleen Snyder, Praco; Buddy Fitzgerald, Tarrant City; J. T. Brasfield, West Jefferon; P. M. Johnson, West Jefferson, and the Rev. George Spruelly, West Jefferson Baptist Church.

Most of the character witnesses testified yesterday they had heard about the "Ku Klux" riding in the area prior to May 19.

Three admitted on cross-examination "it was the general talk of the community" that Caradine, Brett Brasfield and others had been "riding around at night whipping folks."

Final state witnesses took the stand after lengthy questioning of Boyd Killingsworth, admitted ex-member of the Adamsville Ku Klux Klan.

DEPUTY SOLICITOR CECIL DEASON read to Killingsworth more than 100 questions and answers he gave earlier this year when testifying before the Grand Jury. Killingsworth said, after each question and answer, that he could not "remember" any of it.

Bases Request On King Remark As Prejudicial

Case Moves Nearer Jury Stage; Caradine Alibi: 'At Ball Game'

In an almost unprecedented move, the state today asked for a mistrial in the flogging case of A. B. Caradine.

The state's request came during the questioning by Defense Atty. Jim Gibson, of Clark Fooshee, brother of Emily Fooshee, who said yesterday she married Ervin Leon Key.

Key, the state's star witness, had testified previously he was present when Jack Alexander was flogged, and he identified Caradine as the flogger.

JUDGE ALTA KING remarked on Fooshee's testimony that "I think that directly refutes him (Key)."

Deputy Solicitor Cecil Deason rose to ask for a mistrial.

Deason said, "I think you honor's statement before the jury may have so prejudiced the minds of the jury that the state could not get a fair trial in this case."

Judge King overruled the motion.

MYSTERY WOMAN—Miss Emily Fooshee, of Clinton, La., told the court yesterday she didn't know her right name. Then she identified Ervin Leon Key, the state's star witness, as the man she married several months ago in Mississippi.

The case then proceeded and was expected to go to the jury some time today.

The jury must decide whether Caradine used the lash on three masked mob victims or whether he was at a baseball game the night of May 19.

Another warm exchange between Judge King and a state prosecutor followed that between the court and Deason.

This came when Miss Fooshee was recalled to the stand to reaffirm her statement that she married Key last September while he was going under the name of Waldrop.

Solicitor Emmett Perry rose to "object to this highly improper testimony and ask the court to end it."

The prosecutor said:

"We are trying A. B. Caradine here for the flogging of Jack Alexander, NOT a man named Key for something that is alleged to have happened in Louisiana or Mississippi.

"It is an attempt by the defense to impeach a witness on immaterial matters and has NO place in this case."

* * *

KING AGAIN overruled the objection, commenting:

"It would be rediculous NOT to let her (Miss Fooshee) to refute his (Key's) testimony."

Clark Fooshee said Key slept with his sister two nights in Clark's bed. He said that when Key left her on a Sunday, he promised to send for her when he got a job.

"He never did," Fooshee said.

Miss Fooshee was recalled to testify. She denied Key's accusation that they had sexual relationships the first night they met. She said, "No, sir, not before we were married."

* * *

MISS FOOSHEE denied Key was drunk when the marriage license was issued and at the ceremony next day.

She said she heard rumors he was a married man and asked him about it, but he said "that is ridiculous."

Caradine, 40-year-old mechanic, testified, along with four other defense witnesses, that he was at a baseball game.

State witnesses had another version. Alexander, whom Caradine is accused of flogging, and Key, former Klansman, testified that the defendant wielded the lash.

Caradine is the second of 18 men indicted for flogging while masked and similar charges to face trial. The first to be tried, Coleman A. (Brownie) Lollar, was acquitted several weeks ago. He testified he was also at a baseball game the night of June 10, the night the state contended he flogged Mrs. Edna McDanal.

BEFORE CARADINE took the stand yesterday to admit he was a charter member of Stonewall Jackson Klavern of the Ku Klux Klan in Adamsville and deny any lashings there were two flurries of excitement.

First, an attractive young Louisiana girl testified Key, the state's star witness, married her bigamously several months ago.

Second, a near fight developed between opposing attorneys.

Defense Atty. Jim Gibson called the girl to the stand to "refute" Key's testimony that he fled the state in fear of his life because of Klan threats. He contended Key fled to avoid supporting his wife and children and for fear of prosecution on several charges of embezzlement.

Fri. 12-9-49

Miss Fooshee, Clinton, La., caused a flurry of excitement when she answered the first question by saying she did not know what her name was. She said she married a man named Waldrop.

Key was brought to the courtroom door. She identified him as the man she had married.

After Key was taken away, Gibson tried to introduce a picture of the couple in evidence. When he flashed it before the jury, Deason objected. Gibson walked towards the court reporter, holding the picture aloft. Deason said Gibson was trying to show it to the jury. He walked forward and tried to reach for the picture.

* * *

Birmingham News

GIBSON KNOCKED Deason's hand away, and grabbed Deason's arm.

Alabama

"Don't put your hand on me like that, or I'll . . .," Deason said.

Gibson told the solicitor, "You put on 40 or 50 pounds."

Deason, who had walked back to his chair, whirled around and said, "Don't let that stop you. Ho, bud, don't let that stop you."

The verbal row continued another two or three minutes, while Judge Alta L. King rapped for order and said, "I'll not have that in this court."

Gibson said he had had "just about enough."

Deason replied, "Any time you want to get on me, just get going."

On cross examination, he said he remembered talking to Key before the man testified to the Grand Jury. Tate said Key told him he was a member of the Klan and present when Jack Alexander was whipped, and that Caradine was there. But he denied telling Key to hide out.

An effort by Deputy Solicitor Deason to have Tate call the Walker County sheriff's office and see if the warrants had been withdrawn there was stopped by a ruling of Judge King.

That ended it.

Caradine was on the stand only a few minutes this morning, and Key took his place in the witness chair

* * *

KEY WAS CONFRONTED with Miss Fooshee, who identified him yesterday as the man who bigamously married her.

Key said he met Miss Fooshee at a Clinton cafe where she was a waitress. He said he had intimate relations with her, but never lived with her as man and wife.

Asked if he married her on Sept. 4, 1949, in Liberty, Miss., he replied "If I did, I don't remember it."

Key said he was constantly drunk during the period he was with Miss Fooshee.

Key said that just before he fled the state in fear of his life, he was told by Deputy Sheriff Troy Tate, "If I was you I wouldn't stay around here. Keep in close contact with me."

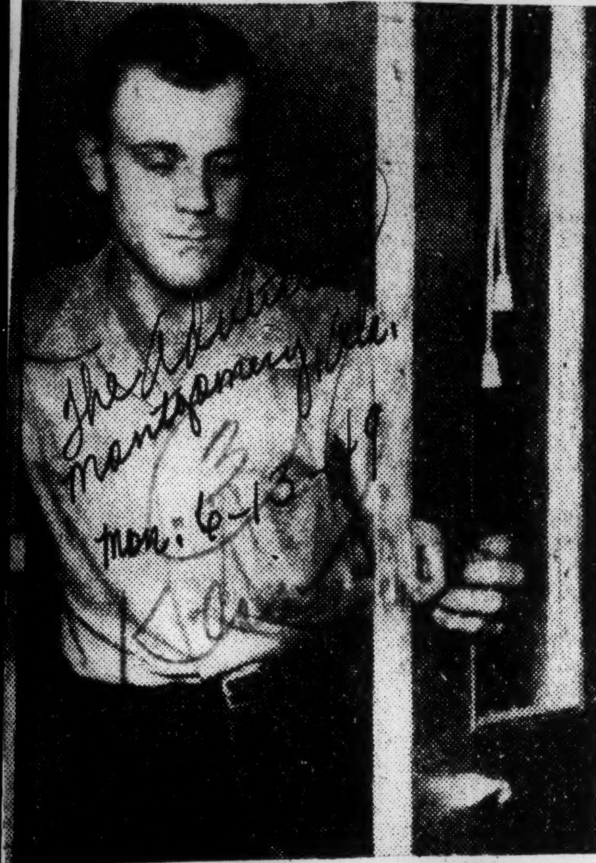
* * *

HE SAID TATE warned him if the Klan was after him they would get him.

Tate was called to the stand and said he had been in court for the past three days waiting to serve two Walker County warrants on Key. One of the warrants was for desertion of his wife and the other is for non-support.

The four witnesses who testified yesterday they were at the ball game and had seen Caradine there at the time a hooded band raided Jack Alexander's home were:

J. D. Fox, 23, Bessemer Route 5; Lamar Ware, Quinton; Ralph Myers, 19, Praco, and Wallace Dyer, 18, West Jefferson.



HOODED MOB PROWLS IN ALABAMA—Luther F. Williams (left) shows how robed and hooded men smashed door glass, reached through and unlocked the door when they broke into the home of his mother-in-law at Birmingham, Ala., Friday night. The night riders dragged the 42-year-old woman from her home and in the eerie light of a burning cross, threatened to burn her at the stake. In picture at right, Steve Marshlar examines a cross which was burned near the rear of his cafe by hooded and robed men in Brookside, a little mining community near Birmingham.

Mon. 6-13-49

Newcomer Gets KKK Warning About Moving Into Home

Atlanta Daily World, Atlanta, Ga.

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (SNS)—The city's five-star leadership has been stirred to action over the alleged threat by a reported city employee who is said to have identified himself as a member of the Robert E. Lee Chapter of the Ku Klux Klans, threatening to blow up the home of a Smithfield resident who had just moved into the contested area. Tues. 5-24-49

Willie German, an insurance salesman, moving to the city from Jacksonville, Fla., said that he had been warned by a man who styled himself a klansman not to live in the home he had moved into at 1100 11th Avenue North. Mr. German moved out, he told police.

Chief Building Inspector H. E. Haygood is said to have appeared at the home to order the family to move, finding them gone, it is said.

A spokesman for the Birmingham Branch of the NAACP said that the U. S. Department of Justice would be asked to prosecute the city officials on charges of conspiring to violate the civil liberties of the threatened family. Tues 5-24-49

It was also noted that several leaders had begun to "put their heads together seeking a collective plan of action to defend the homes of our people against klan terror and violence." These leaders would not give an indication of what they had in mind.

Hooded Men Slug Woman, Burn Crosses

Birmingham Mobsters Drag Out Housewife, And Cafe Operator

Threaten Hanging

Solicitor Calls For End Of Lawlessness, Asks All-out Investigation

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., June 1[illegible]—(U.P.)—Hooded mobsters slugged an ill, 42-year-old grandmother last night after accusing her of "dancing in the nude" and threatened a cafe operator for allegedly "running a disorderly place," the victims said today.

Circuit Solicitor Emmett Perry immediately called for an end to this lawlessness in Jefferson County even if the Legislature has to provide extra men for state and county police.

Forced To Watch Cross

Both victims of the midnight marauders were dragged from their homes and forced to watch cross-burnings, the traditional "warning" ritual of the Ku Klux Klan. The woman, Mrs. Hugh McDanal, said she snatched the masks off several of her attackers and believes she would recognize them. Sun 6-12-49

Members of the mob threatened to "lash me, string me up and burn me at the stake" if they paid her a second visit, Mrs. McDanal said.

Solicitor Perry said he would call the grand jury, just recessed, back in special session as soon as sufficient evidence is presented to his office as to the identity of the "night riders."

Assigns Protection

Perry also assigned police protection to the wife of the second victim of last night's intruders, cafe proprietor Steve Marshler. Mrs. Marshler was afraid to go back to her home in the Brookside Community seven miles northwest of Birmingham on the Jasper Highway. 6-12-49

Mrs. McDanal, however, hurled defiance at the intruders and said she would defend her home with the aid of her husband, a truck driver who was on the nightshift when the prowlers came.

Mrs. McDanal took a blow on the head, apparently from a leather blackjack, during the melee with the mob in her house and on her lawn and had "a terrific headache" today. Her husband feared for her condition because she only recently underwent a brain operation and is still convalescent.

The McDanals were "reinforced" by their daughter and son-in-law, who went to the house after the intrusion and spent the rest of the night. They brought along their small son.

'Bad As Russia'

"It looks like we're bringing up this boy in a country almost as bad as Russia," McDanal said, fondling his husky grandson. "It makes you wonder."

The McDanals live in a small house a mile this side of Brookside. The proximity of the two visitations indicated they were carried out by the same hooded band.

Perry called on Sheriff Holt McDowell and State Safety Director Bankhead Bates to go after the raiders with all their manpower. If they need more, he said, we will ask the Legislature now in session to provide it. 6-12-49

Mrs. McDanal, a typical gaunt country woman, said the mob leader accused her of "dancing in the nude, running an immoral house and selling whisky." If any more such reports were heard, the masked leader told her, "We will string up you and your husband." Sun 6-12-49

Mrs. McDanal denied any of the offenses alleged. She said she was not scared and fought the intruders to the limit of her strength.

White Woman Beaten; Man Threatened

Daily World, Atlanta, Ga. Tue. 6-14-49

Cafe Owner Told To Stop Serving Negro Patrons

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—A violent outburt of Ku Klux Klan terrorism in Birmingham and Jefferson County has brought agents of the Alabama State Department of Public Safety into action at the request of Sheriff Holt McDowell.

This was revealed by Bankhead Bates, director of the department, who said that authorities in Alabama's largest city "are unable to cope with the situation."

He said his department would "push the investigation until we find out who is guilty."

Fear stalked this city after Mrs. Hugh McDanal, 42, and a grandmother, was visited by hooded men Friday midnight who threatened her life and struck her on the head after accusing her of dancing in the nude, running an immoral house and selling whiskey.

Later masked men visited a cafe operated by Steve Marshler, 41, and warned him "to start running my place right."

The terrorists then burned a cross after marching Negro patrons outside the cafe.

The cafe owner served both Negroes and whites with a partition to separate them.

One of the Klan gangsters told Marshler "You've got to keep those Negroes down — quit serving them."

There was quick response to the Klan outbreak. A high state official blamed "bums, hoodlums and cut-throats of the Ku Klux Klan." for terrorizing Jefferson County residents.

Atty. General A. A. Carmichael blamed the Ku Klux Klan. He expressed hope that some of its members would be convicted of the assault on Mrs. Hugh McDanal.

In Atlanta, Grand Dragon Samuel Green, of the Association of Georgia Klans, said his organization does not operate in Alabama. He would not specify any connection with the Federated Klans of Alabama. 6-14-49

Circuit Sol. Emmett Perry plans to call a grand jury as soon as evidence can be compiled on Mrs. McDanal's report. She thinks she can identify several of the 100 or so men who broke into her home, forced her to watch a cross burning on the lawn, and slugged her.

Alabama KKK Denies Dragging Navy Vet From Home And Lashing Him With Belt

Advertiser Montgomery Ala.

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., June 15 — (AP) — A white-robed mob dragged a Navy veteran from his home last midnight and lashed him 20 times with a leather belt.

Their victim was Billy Guyton Stovall, 31, white pipe plant employe described by neighbors as a good husband and father.

The flogging of Stovall was the third outbreak involving robed mobs in the Birmingham area within a week. A woman was manhandled and forced to watch a cross burning, and a restaurant operator made to watch a cross burning last Friday night. Both are whites.

Dr. E. P. Pruitt, head of the Ku Klux Klan in Alabama, flatly denied the Klan had any part in the three incidents.

Stovall and his two children, Jimmy 10, and Elaine, 8, were at home at 11:30 last night when a robed figure knocked on the door.

Jimmy gave this account:

"The man said, 'This is Stuart I want to see you.' Then he grabbed my daddy and pulled him out the door."

Another robed and hooded man "with holes cut to see through," came into the house and asked for Mrs. Stovall. She was at work. *6-16-49*

"He told me for us (Jimmy and house at 12:30 a.m. She said the door was open and Jimmy told her "the Ku Klux came and got daddy." *6-16-49*

She called police and notified the sheriff's office. Two sheriff's deputies and three state patrolmen arrived an hour later.

Stovall returned at 1:30 a.m. His wife said he had been taken to a wooded area and struck 20 times with a heavy leather belt. His back, she said, was covered with welts.

"The only reason they gave me is that I left my children at home alone," Stovall said in an interview tonight. He denied the charge. *6-16-49*

Stovall said a report that the men accused him of failing to support his family was not true.

"I'm getting a gun and I know how to use it," he said.

Dr. Pruitt said the Klan "had nothing to do with this or any other act of mob violence." He is president of the Federated Ku Klux Klan, Inc., of Alabama.

Persons blaming the Klan for recent "acts of hoodlumism" in the Birmingham area "are infernal liars," Pruitt said.

"The Klan stands for law and order," he added.

BILLY G. STOVALL
"I'm Getting A Gun"

Congress Told To Lay Off Probe Of State Floggings

The Advertiser p. 1 Montgomery, Ala.

No Help Needed, Says Legislative Resolution; FBI Ordered To Expand Its Investigation

Sat. 6-25-49

By The Associated Press

Congress got a pointed reminder yesterday that Alabama needs no outside help in bringing the activities of hooded groups under control.

Both houses of the legislature unanimously approved a resolution telling Congress generally, and the House judiciary committee specifically, to mind its own business.

The judiciary committee instructed a civil rights subcommittee to make an investigation in recent acts of violence by masked mobs in north Alabama.

"There are adequate and able law enforcement agencies presently investigating the violence," the resolution said. "The people of Alabama are determined to stamp out this violence and bring the guilty to justice through their own efforts."

Bill To Become Law

It also pointed out that a bill is well on its way to becoming law in the legislature to outlaw the wearing of masks in public.

The legislators called the proposed congressional probe into Alabama's internal affairs "wholly unnecessary, unwanted and unjustifiable."

They pointed to recent instances of mob violence in other sections "just as regrettable and equally to be condemned" as any in Alabama.

Copies of the resolution were ordered sent to President Truman and leaders of both houses of Congress.

FBI To Expand Probe

Meanwhile, hooded raiders were assailed on other fronts as the FBI was ordered to make a full field inquiry into acts of violence in the state.

Attorney General Tom Clark ordered the investigation. He asked specifically for the facts on actions by a white-sheeted mob in the Brookside section, 10 miles northwest of Birmingham, the night of June 1.

A white woman was manhandled and a restaurant proprietor threatened by the band. Both were forced to watch the burning of crosses.

Clark's announcement said members of the Ku Klux Klan were "purported" to be involved. Klan officials have denied responsibility for night-riding activities.

Newsmen To Be Called

Further plans for a congressional committee investigation were announced. Two Birmingham newsmen, Clarke Stallworth of the Post and Clancy Lake of the News, will be called as witnesses in Washington next week.

Walker County Probes Violence By Mobs

Advertiser

JASPER, ALA., Sept. 14—(AP)—Mob violence in Walker County today was being investigated by the grand jury. *Thurs. 9-15-49*

At least 10 persons have reported they were flogged or intimidated by masked and robed night riders in recent months.

Sheriff Grover Baggett said all who reported such actions have been subpoenaed to testify before the jury which is expected to report Friday.

Threats Stop Defender Reporter's Probe Of Klan Floggings In Dixie

The Defender, Chicago Ill. Sat. 7-9-49 3 KKK Ala

By JOHN LE FLORE

BIRMINGHAM—A Chicago Defender reporter enroute to Ashland, Ala., 90 miles southwest of here, to investigate a series of Ku Klux Klan floggings, was stopped here by warnings from a public official and white friends "to steer clear of Ashland until things calm down."

Some of the warnings came from white persons in Ashland who had promised the reporter cooperation in making his investigations.

The acute tenseness of the situation centered around the sensational expose of mass floggings and other brutal acts of violence recently imposed on whites and Negroes. Ruthless night riders, dressed in the masks and robes of the KKK, have caused a reign of terror in the Ashland area.

The spotlight was thrown on these conditions in Clay County last week by two God-fearing Methodist white ministers, Rev. F. Frank Ledford, of Ashland, and Rev. Luther Brown, of Millerville.

The clergymen believe they discovered at a lonely spot the "whipping grounds" in an abandoned graphite mine where the lawless, masked gangsters have reportedly flogged between 25 and 30 victims in recent weeks.

Six victims — three white and three Negro—have already told state law enforcement officers their stories of cruel punishment inflicted upon them.

The Negro victims include John Henry McCullers, father of six children, who said he was beaten senseless by hooded men. He said they accused him of "running around with a woman other than his wife." *Sat. 7-9-49*

Exposed on Saturday by the Methodist ministers were the floggings of 33-year-old Willie Horton, cafe owner and World War II hero who wore five battle stars.

It was said Willie Horton, who has sold his business and moved away, was beaten because he couldn't produce information regarding another Negro. Olin was beaten, reportedly, because of carnal knowledge of a girl.

Two of the three white men were beaten for "believing in civil rights." One of them, Jack Alexander, is a tubercular.

A white herb doctor, J. J. Gavins, was lured from his home on the pretext that a "sick woman" needed his services. His flogging was revealed at the same time the Hortons' story was told.

Because of the tension in the Ashland area, a hotbed of Klan activity, the Defender reporter was warned to keep away until calm is restored.

Several ministers of the area have signed a resolution deploring mob violence. A blow against the Klan and other hooded gangs was delivered Tuesday when the house approved a senate anti-masking measure by an 84 to 4 vote. Gov. Jim Folsom immediately signed the bill.

Despite that action, however, hooded riders were reported seen in several of the smaller communities in Jefferson County Friday night around Klan meeting time.

Veteran Flogged by Hooded Men in Alabama

Willie Horton, 33, a wounded veteran of World War II, tells Rev. Luther Brown (right), pastor of the Millersville (Ala.) Methodist Church, how he was flogged by hooded men. Mr. Horton lives near Ashland, Ala. The Rev. Mr. Brown has disclosed five floggins by robed and hooded men in Clay County, Ala., after a private investigation. He said he had been warned that he was "pretty close to the top of the whipping list."

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These and other activities so incensed the people of the State that the Legislature on June 28 passed a law banning the wearing of masks, despite strenuous objection of the Ku Klux Klan.

Robed Mob In Tuscaloosa Terrorizes Negro Homes

(By Ala. Newspaper Association)

TUSCALOOSA — A robed but unmasked mob of whites struck terror in hearts of several Negro families Monday night in this West Alabama City as they invaded several homes, frightening one woman almost into hysterics and inflicting severe and painful injuries on a businessman. This mob striking in force without warning went to the home of Glover Davis, auto repair shop owner and after luring him from bed to which he had retired several hours before drug him out of the door to cars parked in front of his home and beat him unmercifully with blackjacks and other weapons. Dazed by this sudden and unprovoked attack, Mr. Davis did not recover his wits until the blows were falling thick and fast. At this time he began to return some of the blows which proved very ineffective in the one-sided battle. Davis told police investigators that he knew one of the men and it was because of this knowledge that he opened the door without his gun. His wife and six small children screamed in terror as he went down under the vicious blows.

In a two story apartment less than one half block from the campus of Stillman College, Mrs. Pinky McGhee was asleep in bed with her small daughter when she was summoned to the door by a loud knock. Thinking it to be her husband, Willie McGhee, she opened the door. She was met by a mob of robed men who forced their way into her home inspite of her pleas that she was not dressed. The men rudely and very insultingly asked her if she knew of her husband's whereabouts. When she answered negatively the leaders grew angry and began abusing her vilely. Deciding that she didn't know they informed her that when they found him, he "wouldn't be any good to anybody."

The mob left so search several homes in the neighborhood including a store directly across the campus from Stillman College. The owner, Henry Tutwilder was alone at the time of the raid but stated that they only inquired of the whereabouts of McGhee. Several others were visited but no violence reported.

While City Police Commissioner J. Frank Livingston has ordered the police department to find these hoodlums and bring them to trial, little or no progress has been made. It is being widely rumored that "loan sharks" are responsbile for these outrages. One company with a chain of offices has been mentioned in connection with this violence as both men, Davis and McGhee are alleged to owe this firm. Too, witnesses to the raid declare that most of the cars had Jefferson County tags.

These outrages will certainly serve to spur Negro leaders to exercises great care in the coming municipal election, September 19, at which time three candidates out of thirteen aspirants must be selected. For many years, the Negro vote has been the deciding factor in city elections. A mass meeting to discuss the various candidates and their record is being planned so that the city's 2,500 Negro voters can judge these office seekers.

'Danger Near,' Says Ku Kluxer

Special To The Advertiser

NOTASULGA, ALA., Oct. 26—Around 200 bedsheetless Macon County residents heard Hugh Morris, Birmingham Ku Kluxer, warn tonight that "danger is imminent in the South" and that Dixie faces "Negro domination."

The spectators, including a dozen women, were orderly. They cheered Morris only once, at the conclusion of his speech and then only briefly.

Wiley Kirby of Notasulga and Ocie D. Rutherford of Tuskegee occupied the speakers' platform with Morris.

State Sen. Forrest Bridges and Ed H. Reynolds, a Notasulga attorney, were among the spectators.

"Orderly Public Meeting"

As for comment after the speaking, Bridges replied: "It was an orderly public meeting."

Morris who recently served 58 days in a Birmingham jail for contempt of court, originally announced he would speak tonight in Tuskegee. Asked why he changed plans, the Klansman said: "I left arrangements up to the people down here and they decided on Notasulga." There were rumors in Tuskegee that pressure had been exerted to shift the gathering to Natasulga.

Morris attacked communism and President Truman and his civil rights program, and criticized the government's farm price supports program.

"Modern Carpetbagger"

He characterized Communists as "modern carpetbaggers" and described the South as "a white man's country."

Morris accused Communists of planning to set up "Negro republics" in regions where the Negro population predominates, and said the "first step in this program is the registration of Negroes to vote." The meeting was held in the recently completed Citizens Hardware Company building, which had not yet been outfitted. There were 165 persons in the building and an additional 50 to 75 heard Morris' speech via loudspeaker in their automobiles outside.

Klansman Appeals Bond Forfeiture

The State Court of Appeals has been asked to revoke a Birmingham court decision forfeiting a $500 bond by Ku Klux Klan Leader William Hugh Morris.

The appeal by Morris and two

bondsmen, E. H. Schwantes and Arnold Fuqua, both of Birmingham, was presented to the court yesterday. It seeks to set aside a ruling by Judge George Lewis Bailes forfeiting the bond which was conditioned on Morris' presenting a list of Klan members to a Birmingham grand jury.

The KKK chieftain was first sentenced to jail on a contempt of court charge for failure to give the list to the jury. Later he was released on bond but again failed to produce the list, claiming it had been stolen.

Judge Bailes didn't accept the excuse and returned Morris to jail. He was later released after serving more than two months, when he gave a partial list of members to the jury.

While in jail, Morris appealed twice to the State Supreme Court but failed to gain his freedom. A third appeal was filed but was dropped after his release.

Klansman Admits Part In Hood Raid

Flogging Trial Opens In Alabama Case Involving Woman

By ROLAND DOPSON
United Press Staff Correspondent

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—(UP)—A witness testified at the opening of the Alabama flogging trials yesterday that the Ku Klux Klan carried out a hooded raid against a 42-year-old grandmother last June tenth.

It was the first positive linking of the Klan with the series of Summer mob outbreaks which so aroused the State that the Legislature passed an anti-masking law.

The witness was Boyd Killingsworth, who admitted he was a member of the raiding party which descended on the rural home of Mrs. Hugh McDanal. But he denied that he earlier identified the first defendant, Coleman E. (Brownie) Lollar, as being present.

Killingsworth said that he went to a Klan meeting at Adamsville, west of Brimingham, that night and later "we stopped by the highway and robed up."

A parade of about 30 cars with two or three men in each car first burned a cross in front of a cafe, then went over to the Jasper Highway and stopped in front of the McDanal house," Killingsworth said.

"I helped to direct traffic," Killingsworth said. "I heard a little of the noise of them getting into the house."

Mrs. McDanal, gaunt rural resident, had earlier testified that about "100 men with their faces in hoods," led by Defendant Lollar, forcibly entered her home and dragged her out to watch them burn a cross.

The defense attempted to attack Mrs. McDanal's character by waving a photograph which it said was a picture of her posing nude in a cornfield. Judge Robert J. Wheeler angrily ruled the move improper and irrelevant.

Both Killingsworth and Felix Lee (Pete) Houghton, who followed him to the stand and gave similar testimony, admitted they were Klansmen and wore official Klan robes on the night of the McDanal raid.

Killingsworth testified that he saw his Klan companions burn a cross "while the woman was standing by."

The witness said that Richard Lollar, brother of Brownie Lollar, presided over the Adamsville Klan meeting that preceded the raid in his capacity as Exalted Cyclops of the local chapter.

Prosecutor Cecil Deason then read what he said was Killingsworth's testimony to the Grand Jury last July placing Brownie Lollar at the scene.

"I don't remember saying that," Killingsworth testified yesterday.

The trial, marking the South's first large-scale prosecution of masked raiders in modern times, opened with Mrs. McDanal identifying Brownie Lollar as a member of the mob that visited her. He was the first of 18 defendants called to trial.

She recognized Lollar, she said, because at the time of the raid she had the pluck to jerk aside his hood to look at his face. She recognized two other defendants the same way, she said.

OTHER Papers Say

44 Indictments: Only Beginning Of KKK End

From The Birmingham Age-Herald

GRAND Jury indictment of 14 persons on 44 counts is a victory in behalf of the overwhelming majority of law-abiding citizens of Jefferson County.

Each individual charged by the jury will have a fair and open trial during which innocence or guilt may be established. The work yet to be done, obviously, remains great. This fact should not be permitted to escape from our consciousness.

The Grand Jury served fellow citizens well. Each member deserves a full measure of appreciation from us all. Service of this kind is the stuff of which law and order are made. An aroused citizenry made its desires clear. Proper functioning of the vehicle of justice now seems likely.

Solicitor Emmett Perry said shortly after the Grand Jury was dismissed that the investigation had only begun. This implies that much work remains to be done. That likely will be the conclusion of most citizens. The number of indictments, was substantial. Variety of indictments, as reported, indicates wide and thorough study of several night-riding incidents. But certainly more than 14 persons have participated in assaults. The full force of law and order must be brought to bear on all.

Mob violence, hooded violence, have taken place in several Alabama counties. Jefferson now has joined Shelby County in pointing the way to orderly processes of justice. Citizens of each county where mob violence has been committed would do well speedily to emulate Jefferson and Shelby.

The evil diseases of night-riding and hooded self-righteousness should be stamped out, by law, in each area where they have manifested themselves.

All who have worked so vigorously to the end of returning indictments deserve a great expression of thanks from our people.

Jefferson County is showing not only the rest of the state but the whole of our country that law may not be ignored here without grave risk of stern punishment.

But let us not relax. Let us press forward. The job of each of us remains unfinished. Let none of these fine victories thus far cause our will to flag or memory of the barbarity of crimes to be dimmed.

Veteran Flogged by Hooded Men in Alabama

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DUSTIN' OFF the NEWS

By LUCIUS HARPER

Why The Klan Is Now Branded As 'Dangerous'

In the Year of Our Lord, One Thousand, Nine Hundred and Forty-nine, Southern white leaders—especially those in Alabama—have come to the conclusion that the Ku Klux Klan must be dissolved. It has begun to flog and intimidate white people so its usefulness has come to an end. So long as it "crossed the color line" and whipped only unprotected Negroes, it could thrive in that section as a rather useful instrument to "uphold and maintain white supremacy," but once it "forgot" its supreme and wholesome mission and "became misguided" by flogging some unruly whites, its reptilian onslaught must be stamped out at whatever cost.

Lucius Harper

While we cheer the present rumpus against it, and agree that law and order can best be destroyed by its voluntary disbandment, we cannot overlook the fact that the fools and hoodlums who went into the Klan were really nurtured by the very forces that now cry aloud for its death sentence; these are the States' Rights advocates who walked out of the Philadelphia Convention in much rowdyism. It was this crowd of political hoodlums that gave the Klan the "green light." When they returned South, if you recall, with their Flag of Revolt, every hoodlum and thug rushed to join the Klan to prevent President Truman from "forcing social equality on the South" through the advocacy of his Civil Rights program, which, in reality means just plain justice and fair-play for American black folk under the Constitution.

Every southern editor, almost without exception, turned loose his editorial guns on what he termed "a high-handed attempt to upset or uproot the racial customs of the South," and thereby gave encouragement to any sort of oppositional program to the Truman doctrine that shouted "Amen!" Before this political rowdyism and rebellion at Philly, the Klan could scarcely summon a "corporal's guard," but thereafter "Cock-eyed" Green of Atlanta, the Grand Kleagle, called a meeting on Stone Mountain and the States Rights thugs and hoodlums went into its ranks by the hundreds against what they termed "A formidable enemy against southern racial customs." Green, or someone as cock-eyed, announced at a public meeting that "the streets would run red with blood if the Negro gained the ballot." The Negro did, however, and the streets are still dry.

These hooded gangsters "pledged their devotion to home rule (States' Rights) and local self-government," which, of course, is the southerner's way of saying: "Keep the Negro in his place." This unlawful upsurge was mildly condemned in some papers, winked at in others, but there was never any determined campaign launched against it by the better element: the press, pulpit, Rotarians, Chambers of Commerce or such moral and outstanding forces so long as it confined its principal activities and criminal assaults to flogging and chasing Negro men and women out of town. When it now practices a little "social equality of its own design" by selecting its victims—regardless of color—it suddenly becomes a Frankenstein monster to the very forces that somewhat passively nurtured it. The "better element" down South that always seems to act too slowly in matters like these now finds "blood on its own hands."

The reason there is such ready material for the Klan in the South, or fertility for the creation of similar banditry, is due largely to the fact of the type and character of literature its residents feed on daily through the local press. Southern newspapers have been daily Bibles preaching, almost unceasingly, doctrines of racial differences ever since Lee surrendered to Grant. Is there any wonder, under such daily training and constant reminding, that any white boy or girl would grow in the belief that the Negro has any right that the whites are bound to respect? Under such circumstances and under such daily schooling the whites are trained and give a willing ear to any movement, lawful or unlawful, that will retard or heckle Negro progress.

What southern newspaper has had the manly courage or self-respect enough to wage a campaign, in the name of common decency, to have such obnoxious signs as "White Ladies," "Colored Women," "White Gentlemen," "Colored Men," modified or even simplified just to "White," "Colored," to remove the stain of caste these humiliating designations place the entire Negro race in; placing, of course, Dr. Ralph Bunche in the same category with "Dry-Bread" Jones, the shoe-shiner; and Mrs. Bethune with "Tack-Annie" Sally, the coke-head. Under these signs in southern railway stations and the like, Dr. Bunche doesn't rate the title of a "gentleman," nor is Mrs. Bethune considered among the "ladies." Wonder do southern white editors ever think about this? Wouldn't this be a good item to take up in their next "Social Planning" campaign?

Southern whites rarely, if ever, read of the worthwhile accomplishments of local Negroes in their daily press. True, they read of the death of some ante-bellum Negro, who has been a good servant or the like, but they never read of the Negro who has contributed something noteworthy through his inventive genius, if such news develops. Of course, and most naturally, they are given an overdose of Negro crime. The "News Among Colored People" in these sheets is mostly confined to church happenings, deaths and funerals, school items and social jottings in which many papers forbid the writer to address his own people as "Mr., Mrs. or Miss." The whites never see this news. The paper for the white section is "replated" and stock-market reports inserted instead.

What then is the natural outcome in any community where such literature is poured into its homes daily? Is there any wonder that white men will turn to flogging white men? It isn't any fun or fancy in whipping a Negro anymore: he doesn't amount to any-

thing—haven't they been taught that all along; hasn't it been a part of their general education? It isn't even news anymore to flog a Negro . . . but it is startling news and a great accomplishment to flog a white man—and right now, dangerous business in Alabama; we don't know about Georgia and South Carolina . . . whites haven't tried it out there yet. Don't laugh, the South and its race problem isn't funny, nor stupid . . . just tragic.

14 Persons Are Cited; Warrants For Arrests To Be Served Monday

Judge Asks Investigation To Be Continued; 28 Of Cases In Report Concern Floggings; Fight Just Begun, Says Solifitor Perry

BY CLANCY LAKE
News Staff Writer

The Jefferson County Grand Jury Saturday returned 44 indictments against 14 persons charged with taking part in mob violence and night riding activities here during the past few months.

But the fight on the reign of terror his just begun. The Grand Jury report asked for a continued investigation. And Solicitor Emmett Perry noted that the "surface has hardly been scratched. The investigation has just begun."

Of the 44 indictments, six are for first degree burglary, one for intimidation of a witness, one for neglect of duty, eight for boycotting and 28 for participation in night riding activities. The exact charge for the 28 indictments is not yet known.

The charge of boycotting is brought when a group of persons conspire to restrain trade. Boycotting is interference in any way with carrying out a lawful business.

One Cited In Four Cases

One man was charged with participating in four different incidents during the reign of terror in Jefferson County. Five other men are charged with abetting in three separate incidents.

Under law names of the persons involved may not be revealed until arrests are made. Sheriff Holt McDowell was standing by in the courtroom Saturday.

Capiases (arrest warrants issued by the Grand Jury) were turned over to Mrs. Mabel Ellard, clerk of the criminal division of the Circuit Court.

She was to have turned them over to the sheriff, but Circuit Judge Robert J. Wheeler said they would not be served until Monday morning.

The Grand Jury report Saturday ended seven days of secret sessions. The jurors questioned some 80 witnesses.

"We are deeply concerned over the situation that has existed in Jefferson County in recent months," the report said.

"We sincerely ask that a thorough and augmented investigation be continued and that such action, together with a report of this and the succeeding Grand Jury, be considered as notice of our people and to all persons outside of this county that such unlawful acts will not be tolerated.

"We respectfully urge the investigating officers to make every effort to bring participants in such unlawful acts to the bar of justice."

* * *

Judge Accepts Report

IT TOOK BUT A FEW minutes for John Pierce Thornton, Grand Jury foreman, to read the report. The jurymen filed into the courtroom of Circuit Judge Robert J. Wheeler at 12:55 p.m. They were accompanied by Atty. Gen. Albert A. Carmichael, Solicitor Emmett Perry and Cecil Deason, deputy solicitor.

"I accept your report," Judge Wheeler told the jury.

"You have rendered great service to the citizens of Jefferson County and to the citizens of the state of Alabama.

"Your action, I hope, will make for better law enforcement in Jefferson County. I hope it will have the effect of making all citizens aware of the fact that we have tribunals to try persons accused of crime, and that it is not within the province of any citizen to take the law into his own hands and punish any person accused of law violation.

"It is not an excuse," the judge continued, "that any victim had been guilty of law violations. That is not enough.

"It is the duty of a citizen who has evidence to present that evidence to duly constituted authorities so that prosecution can take its course in accordance with our constitution and our law."

Judge Wheeler thanked the 18 men for their "arduous duties." He said their pay had been small ($4 per day) and that the room in which they worked had been extremely uncomfortable.

"I hope," the judge said, "that your sense of duty will prove sufficient remuneration."

* * *

Carmichael Statement

AFTER THE GRAND JURY had been dismissed, Mr. Carmichael issued the following statement:

"Under the American system of jurisprudence there is no substitute for the vigorous and fearless action of a Grand Jury.

"In the present situation an enlightened and fearless Grand Jury of Jefferson County has struck what now appears to be a death blow to the Federated Ku Klux Klan, Inc.

"A Grand Jury is one of the most important agencies in our system. Here the Grand Jury has functioned the way the founding fathers intended. It is indeed heartening to reflect upon the effective and magnificent role played in this entire matter by the daily press of the state.

"Mobism and hoodlumism in Alabama certainly have been struck a hefty blow by and through our state system of laws, courts, prosecuting officers, investigating officers and Grand Juries," Mr. Carmichael concluded.

The Grand Jury was called into special session June 2. It had recessed several weeks earlier to hear further testimony about the dynamiting of three Negro-owned homes in North Smithfield. The homes were blasted on the night of March 24.

* * *

First Reported June 10

AT THE TIME of the recess, the night riding activities in Jefferson County had not been made public. The story broke on the night of June 10 when masked and robed night riders, some of them armed, invaded the home of Mrs. Hugh McDanal, Westwood. The same night a Brookside cafe was invaded by hooded, robed men.

Three days later a Navy veteran was taken from his Northside home and flogged.

Four state officers were assigned to break the cases by Bankhead Bates, director of the State Department of Public Safety. While digging up evidence and witnesses on the two cases for Grand Jury presentation, the state men discovered these beatings: William Stevens, Mary Alice Henderson and Jack Alexander, taken from a Quinton home in May and flogged; William Hamilton, Upper Coalburg, taken from his home and flogged; Billy Rochester, miner with a broken back, snatched from his home by hooded men and forced to watch Hamilton beaten.

The Grand Jury heard evidence in all of these cases.

Ex-Deputy Lollar Admits He Belonged to Klan

Birmingham, Oct. 28 (AP)—Coleman A. "Brownie" Lollar today admitted for the first time that he is a former Ku Klux Klansman. But he denied he had ever flogged anyone.

The 35-year-old former special deputy entered a blanket denial from the stand to a charge of flogging while masked.

His trial is the first of 18 men arrested on charges arising from a wave of night-riding activities of hooded and robed men here last spring.

Spends 2 Hours on Stand.

Lollar testified almost 2 hours. The defense then rested and the State began calling rebuttal witnesses.

Mrs. Hugh McDanal, 42-year-old grandmother, in earlier testimony identified Lollar as one of her attackers the night of June 10. She said members of the mob "accused me of selling whisky and renting my rooms to couples."

Lollar testified he never had seen Mrs. McDanal before she entered the courtroom at the start of his trial. Asked if he ever had been in her home, he answered:

"No, sir. I don't know where it is."

He said he went to a baseball game the night of the raid on the McDanal home. Three of his neighbors had testified they accompanied him to the game.

Lollar admitted he was a former member of Robert E. Lee Klan Klavern in Birmingham. He said he permitted his membership to lapse June 30 by failing to pay dues.

Raid Followed Klan Session.

He had told reporters previously that he never had belonged to the Klan.

The witness testified he never had belonged to the klavern in Adamsville. Two Klansmen told the court previously that the McDanal raid followed a meeting of the Adamsville klavern. It was at Adamsville also that Lollar was found by State officers June 17 guarding automobiles outside a Klan meeting place.

On cross-examination, Lollar said he merely was paid to watch the cars there, but never entered a meeting of the Adamsville Klan.

Masked-Mob Terrorism Trials Set for Dec. 5

Birmingham, Oct. 31 (AP)—Trials of three men accused of masked mob terrorism were set today for hearing December 5 as Alabama officials went ahead with plans to bring all the 18 men arrested on such charges before the courts.

Set for December 5 were indictments for flogging while masked against the Rev. R. C. Lyons, itinerant Graysville, Ala., minister; Richard Lollar, identified by State officials as cyclops of the Adamsville, Ala., Ku Klux Klan, and A. B. Carradine.

Conviction carries a penalty of one to 10 years' imprisonment.

Coleman A. "Brownie" Lollar, brother of Richard Lollar, was acquitted of flogging-while-masked charges last week. He still faces similar charges in four other cases.

Ex-Klansman Is Acquitted Of Flogging

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., Oct. 29 —(AP)— A self-identified ex-Klansman today was acquitted of masked flogging.

The jury's verdict freeing Coleman A. (Brownie) Lollar was greeted with loud applause by courtroom spectators.

Lollar, former special sheriff's deputy, was accused by the state of participating with other robed and masked men in the manhandling of Mrs. Hugh McDanal June 10.

Break-In Claimed

The State said the band broke into Mrs. McDanal's home and forced her to watch a cross-burning.

Mrs. McDanal testified her attackers accused her of "selling whisky and renting rooms to couples."

Just before the jury retired for its brief deliberation—less than an hour — Prosecutor Emmett Perry urged a guilty verdict.

"Tell this man with a lash," demanded Perry, "that he is not above the law."

Immediately after the verdict was announced, Lollar was surrounded by friends who hugged him and pounded him on the shoulders.

Lollar was the first of 18 men to be tried on flogging and related charges. All were indicted after an outbreak of floggings and cross burnings, mostly in the hill country west of Birmingham.

Next Trials Not Set

Perry said no immediate decision had been made as to when others would be tried but that action would be taken Monday to set the next case.

The solicitor said each of the accused would be "tried one by one until all have had a fair and impartial trial in open court."

Lollar's attorney, George Rogers, opened his argument with the assertion that "the state has talked about everything but the McDanal case."

Rogers maintained that the state's efforts to connect Lollar with other incidents during the trial only muddied the issue.

Rogers referred to three other state witnesses who identified Lollar by his voice as a participant in three other floggings.

Allowed Testimony

Judge Robert J. Wheeler allowed testimony in other cases under the ruling that the prosecution had the right to "attempt to show a behavior pattern."

Perry told the jury "I want you to contrast this trial with those held in the Klan Klaverns in the dark of night. Where is the record from those trials?"

Lollar Admits Kluxer Role; Denies Lashing

Birmingham Defendant Also Denies Authorship Of Threatening Letter

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., Oct. 28 —(AP)—Coleman A. (Brownie) Lollar today flatly denied that he had gone on robed and hooded flogging raids, but admitted he was a member of the Ku Klux Klan until the end of June this year.

The 35-year-old defendant was on the stand two hours at his trial on a charge of flogging while masked, a crime punishable by up to 10 years in the penitentiary.

Lollar also denied any knowledge of a letter which the state and the defense were submitting tonight to handwriting experts for expected testimony tomorrow.

Lollar, balding operator of a small coal mine, is the first of 18 men arrested on charges arising from a wave of night riding by hooded hoodlums to face a jury.

Expert Studies Handwriting

Much of his testimony centered around a letter mailed May 21 to Mrs. Sylvania Alexander, mother of mob victim Jack Alexander, whipped the night of May 19. The letter threatened a return visit.

It listed Lollar's post office box at Praco, as a return address. Lollar denied it was in his handwriting and made two copies of his handwriting of the same words.

These specimens will be examined by State Toxicologist C. D. Brooks for testimony tomorrow.

Mrs. Hugh McDanal, 42-year-old grandmother, identified Lollar as one of her attackers the night of June 10 in earlier testimony. She said members of the mob "accused me of selling whisky and renting my rooms."

Never Saw Her Before

Lollar testified he had never seen Mrs. Lollar before she entered the courtroom at the start of his trial.

He said he went to a baseball game the night of the raid on the McDanal home. Three of his neighbors testified they accompanied him to the game.

Lollar admitted he was a former member of the Robert E. Lee Klan Klavern in Birmingham. He said he permitted his membership to lapse last June 30, by failing to pay dues.

He testified he had never belonged to the Stonewall Jackson Klavern in Adamsville. Two Klansmen told the court previously that the McDanal raid followed a meeting of the Adamsville Klavern.

It was at Adamsville also that Lollar was found by state officers June 17 guarding automobiles outside a Klan meeting place.

On cross-examination, Lollar said he was merely paid to watch the cars there but never entered a meeting of the Adamsville Klan.

14 Wouldn't Believe Her

Deputy Sheriff Earl Cooper, who made the first investigation of the McDanal raid, said Mrs. McDanal "didn't mention raising any hoods" when he questioned her the night of the raid.

Mrs. McDanal had testified she raised a hood and recognized Lollar from newspaper photographs after the raid.

Coope ralso testified he saw a bruise on Mrs. McDanal's arm and that she told him "she had been hit twice," after members of the mob broke in her door. A cross was burned in her yard after she was dragged to that spot.

The defense paraded 19 witnesses who testified to Lollar's good character. Fourteen others testified Mrs. McDanal's reputation was bad, and that they would not believe her under oath.

Girl Halts Testimony To Point Out Man In Court as Member of Mob

Recognized Voice At Flogging

By The Associated Press.

Birmingham, Oct. 27.—A girl victim of masked mobsters halted her testimony in a flogging trial today to point out a man in the courtroom audience as a member of the robed band that raided her home.

Sally Burton, 17, made the identification at the trial of Coleman A. "Brownie" Lollar, former special deputy sheriff.

A few minutes later Sexton was back for a contempt-of-court hearing. Miles Denham, reporter for The Birmingham Age-Herald, testified Sexton slapped Mrs. Irene Burton, mother of Sally, in the witness room.

Weeps and Apologizes.

Judge Robert J. Wheeler sentenced Sexton to 24 hours in jail for contempt. The sentence was stricken when Sexton wept and apologized.

Miss Burton had testified she recognized Lollar's voice in the mob that went to her home at Dora June 3, took six people from it into the woods and whipped three of them.

She turned to Judge Wheeler to say:

"Judge, I recognize another man in that mob. He is sitting in the aisle."

Judge Wheeler asked her to point him out.

Motion for Mistrial Denied.

The witness left the stand, walked into the crowd, and put her hand on Sexton's shoulder. "Here he is," she said.

George Rogers, attorney for Lollar, moved for a mistrial. The judge denied his motion.

Two other State witnesses had testified they recognized Lollar's voice when robed and hooded mobs flogged them.

One was Mrs. Albert Sanders, whipped the night of April 22. The other was Willie Stevens, flogged the night of May 19.

Mrs. Sanders said she recognized Lollar's voice when he called to her daughter, Mrs. Opal Dixon, to come out of her house. Lollar also called to her, she testified, before she was taken into the woods and whipped.

Man Sat on His Head.

Stevens testified he "recognized Brownie Lollar when he laughed at me," after Stevens had been whipped.

Miss Burton, Mrs. Sanders, and Stevens all testified they did not see Lollar's face.

One man sat on his head, another held his arms, and a third his feet when he was being whipped, Stevens said. Two other

persons were whipped on the same raid.

Lollar, indicted on five counts of flogging while masked, is on trial for the manhandling of Mrs. Hugh McDanal the night of June 10. Mrs. McDanal testified yesterday, identifying Lollar as a member of the mob that raided her home.

Two men who said they were klansmen testified yesterday the McDanal raid followed a Klan meeting.

The State rested in late afternoon.

Testify for Character.

A parade of 12 character witnesses for Lollar followed. All testified he was of good character.

Seven more witnesses, each on the stand briefly, testified Mrs. McDanal's reputation was bad, and that they would not believe her on oath.

Uniformed State Highway Patrolmen patrolled the halls outside the courtroom in late afternoon. Solicitor Emmett Perry said State officers had taken a pistol from a man he identified as a Ku Klux Klan official.

Perry said the man was T. V. Weaver, an official in the Robert E. Lee Klavern in Birmingham. The weapon was returned after Weaver showed a permit to carry the gun. Perry requested the sheriff's office to revoke the permit.

Alabama Pushes Flogging War With 3 Trials Slated Dec. 5

Advertiser Tues. 11-1-49

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., Oct. 31 — (AP) — Alabama officials today made plans to go ahead with their war against masked mob terrorism by scheduling trials Dec. 5 for three men accused of floggings.

Hearings were set Dec. 5 for the Rev. R. C. Lyons, itinerant Graysville, Ala., minister; Richard Lollar, reputed cyclops of the Adamsville, Ala., Klan and A. B. Carradine.

All three were indicted for flogging while masked, a charge which carries a penalty of one to 10 years imprisonment upon conviction.

Montgomery, Ala.

Lollar's brother, Coleman A. (Brownie) Lollar, was acquitted of flogging charges last week. The first tried of 18 under indictment for mob terrorism activities, he still faces similar charges in four other cases.

The Rev. Lyons faces indictments in the whippings of Jack Alexander, Willie Stevens and Mary Alice Henderson at Pumpkin Center the night of May 19.

Alexander charged the minister took his mask off and prayed for him just before the lash was applied. He swore to a warrant for the minister's arrest.

Accused Of Flogging

Lollar is accused of participating in the flogging of Mrs. Hugh McDanal the night of June 10. His brother, Coleman Lollar, was acquitted last week of charges in that case.

Mrs. McDanal said a gang of robed, hooded men broke into her home, manhandled her and dragged her outside to watch a burning cross.

Carradine faces indictments in the McDanal case and also in the Alexander, Stevens and Henderson cases.

The flogging cases could not be heard earlier because of crowded court dockets.

A grand jury investigating a wave of whippings and cross burnings last Spring indicted the 18 men who face trial.

Most of the cases of violence were in the hilly, coal-mining section west of Birmingham.

State investigators have linked the mob terrorism with the Ku Klux Klan. The Klan denies any part in it.

Dailies Attack Klan Because It's Alcohol Foe, Pastor Claims

News Mon. 8-1-49

A Baptist minister and former Ku Klux Klan member said from his pulpit yesterday that Birmingham daily newspapers are attacking the Klan because it is the enemy of alcohol.

The Rev. Hugh Tully, pastor of the Wylam Baptist Church, said in his sermon that "the papers want every man and woman to drink alcohol."

Birmingham, Ala.

"They are trying to obey their masters," the minister told his congregation, "because if drinking decreases, the brewers will say the newspaper ads are not producing revenue.

"And so they will drop their ads and the newspapers will lose their revenue. The newspapers are selling our boys and girls to the brewers for revenue."

The Rev. Mr. Tully said he was a member of the Klan in 1925 and 1926 when "everyone of importance was a Klan member."

* * *

ALTHOUGH HE SAID he is not a member now, he added that he agrees with the Klan in principle and thinks there should be more Klansmen.

The Klan is an enemy of alcohol, the pastor declared, although there may be Klan members who drink.

He charged newspapers are "potential murderers because they urge everybody to drink, and drinking drivers are potential murderers."

The papers, he said, are "producing lawlessness that made the Ku Klux Klan necessary."

Front pages are devoted to the "hooded terror of the Klan," Mr. Tully said, because the newspapers are "trying to divert attention from their own lawlessness."

* * *

HE SAID HE HAD NEVER seen a sane editorial against liquor.

The minister also added that he had not heard of the Klan administering punishment unless it was deserved.

Mr. Tully charged that a minister of a large Southside church whom he did not identify by name is a member of the Committee of 500 and has lambasted the Klan.

"He's been bought off, and, therefore, does not tell the truth," Mr. Tully said.

Calling the Roman Catholic Church America's No. 1 enemy, Mr. Tully said Catholicism and alcohol are today's two greatest menaces.

Flog Witnesses Fail To Show Up In B'ham

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—(INS)—Three key prosecution witnesses failed to show up Monday, delaying Alabama's flogging trials until today at the earliest.

The three are Jack Alexander, alleged flog victim; Elizabeth Sanders, who testified in a previous trial that she was beaten by a gang of hooded men; and Felix Howton, an admitted Ku Klux Klansman.

A hearing to determine which three men under indictment should be tried first in circuit court was postponed until the witnesses are located.

The defendants, charged with night-riding and flogging activities, are Richard C. Lollar of near Adamsville; the Rev. R. C. Lyons, an itinerant minister of West Jefferson County, and A. B. Carradine, a mechanic.

Along with 15 others, the three men were indicted on charges resulting from a wave of violence in Jefferson County last Spring and Summer.

Ervin Leroy Key, 28, is described as the State's "mystery witness." Key, who was returned to Alabama last month from Houston, Texas, was quoted by FBI agents as saying he fled Alabama because "my life is in danger."

Negro Paper Commends Folsom For KKK Stand

For his attacks on the Ku Klux Klan, Gov. James E. Folsom is included in the Chicago Defender's 1949 honor roll of 15 individuals and three organizations. The Defender is a Negro publication.

Folsom is cited "for his consistent fight against the Ku Klux Klan and the forces of bigotry and intolerance in Alabama."

The governors of Minnesota, Illinois and New Jersey also are cited for banning segregation in their National Guards.

B'ham Lash Victim Points Out Defendant As Masked Flogger

BIRMINGHAM, Dec. 6.—(AP)—A lash victim today pointed out an accused masked flogger as the man who whipped him in front of a hooded and white-robed band last May.

Jack Alexander identified A. B. Carradine, a mechanic, as the flogger. Carradine is being tried on the charge.

Earlier Mary Alice Henderson, 25, who was flogged the same night, said a mob threatened her with [illegible] if she told on others so they could be whipped too."

Alexander testified that he and Miss Henderson were seated on the front porch of his home when 15 or 25 cars filled with robed men drove up, and that 25 men broke down the back door, entering a bedroom occupied by his mother, now dead, and his son, Bobby Jack Alexander, 14.

Alexander testified he was ill at the time with tuberculosis.

The men pulled him and Miss Henderson into a car and drove to Pumpkin Center, where he was forced to take off his pants and was struck "six or seven or eight times with a leather strap."

Asked if he knew who struck him he pointed to Carradine and said:

"That man there, Bird Carradine."

Willie Stevens also was flogged at the same time but Carradine is being tried only in the Alexander case.

Bobby Alexander identified the robed and masked men as "Ku Kluxers."

All the men were masked, he said, except one he identified as the Rev. R. C. Lyons, also under indictment in the flogging cases.

On cross-examination, Miss Henderson said she had been "going with Jack" about eight years and had given birth to three babies by him. She said the masked mob told her that was the reason she was being whipped.

State Witness Names Three As Floggers

BIRMINGHAM — (UP) — The State's first witness testified at a new flogging trial yesterday that she recognized three members of a hooded mob that beat her last May. She did not name defendant A. B. Carradine as one of the three.

Carradine, 40, a mechanic of suburban West Jefferson, was the second man among 18 indicted for the masked gang terrorism here last Spring to go on trial. The first man was acquitted in October of flogging while masked.

Carradine was accused of flogging Jack Alexander, 40, also of West Jefferson.

The first witness, Mary Alice Henderson, 25, said she and Alexander were sitting on Alexander's front porch when a white-robed and masked group of about 100 arrived. She said they were ordered into a car where a masked man held a gun on them.

She said she was hit five times, Alexander 10 times and a third man 10 times.

"Did you recognize any of the men?" she was asked by Deputy Sol. Cecil Deason.

She answered, "Yes," and named three men — Moody Nations, George Hood and Henry Nelson. Both Nations and Nelson are under indictment.

Under cross-examination, Miss Henderson admitted she had three children by Alexander.

The State objected to the questions on the grounds that Defense Atty. George Gibson was trying to prejudice the jury and to justify the flogging. Judge Alta L. King overruled the State.

Drive to Register Defies KKK

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — A Montgomery Citizens Voters Committee said it would continue to work for the registration of more citizens in spite of the refusal of public officials to cooperate.

The Voters Committee had asked the board of registrars permission to set up tables in the court house where citizens could come to for information on registration.

Upon the refusal of the board to grant this permission the committee wrote to Haygood Paterson, a member of the state board of appointments. He said he had no authority to outline registration procedure to the board, although he did have the right to make appointments.

The letter to Paterson said, ". . . we would like to call your attention that under the law all persons—regardless of race, color or creed—are entitled to vote. . ."

The letter added that even if "cooperation is not forthcoming we will proceed with our campaign using what facilities and methods we have at hand to urge residents of Montgomery county to participate broadly in government and assure them of the right to do so."

SIGNING THE LETTER were members of the League of Women Voters, Junior Chamber of Commerce, Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen, Young Democrats, Labor Education Committee, Central Labor Council, and AFL and CIO organizations.

The Voters Committee was organized a few weeks ago when it was noticed that all too few Montgomery county citizens were registered voters. Similar action has been started in other Southern communities.

A cross - burning campaign against the registration of voters has been started by Alabama KKK. In a recent statement Klan Chief William Hugh Morris said one of the main aims of the Klan was to keep Negroes from voting. A number of crosses have been burned in Mobile recently as part of this campaign. Registration of Negroes has been heaviest in that community.

Outraged at the Klan and its cross burnings are Mobile's ministers. The Ministerial Association asked city officials to keep the Klan under control. The association condemned the use of the cross by the Klan in its campaign of hate.

Burn Crosses In Ala. Towns

MOBILE, Ala.—The hate-peddling Ku Klux Klan met a stern rebuff last week in the opening of its official drive to revive the long-dormant Mobile Klavern.

Anti-Klan developments crystallized into formidable opposition to the hooded terror gang near the week-end following Wednesday night's simultaneous cross burning in four outlying sections near the city, and an announcement by Alabama's pudgy Klan leader, William Hugh Morris of Birmingham, that they signified a call for revival of the hate order here.

1. The Klan was criticized Sunday from the pulpit of several churches.
2. Thursday, State Solicitor Carl M. Booth and Sheriff William H. Holcombe said that Klan activities would be brought before the Mobile Grand Jury, Jan. 10.
3. On the same day, Mayor Charles H. Baumhauer issued a warning against any groups "taking the law into their own hands."
4. The Mobile Exchange Club denounced the Klan, labeling it "undemocratic, Un-American and Un-Christian."
5. Strong Catholic, Jewish and intelligent protest influences are expected to retard the growth of the Klan racket in Mobile.

Key Witness In Flogging Trial 'Forgets' All He Told Grand Jury

A chief state witness said from the stand today that he could not recall a word of testimony he gave before the Grand Jury about A. B. (Byrd) Caradine.

Caradine is being tried for the masked flogging of Jack Alexander, West Jefferson tubercular, on the night of May 19.

DEPUTY SOLICITOR CECIL DEASON read about 100 questions and answers put to Killingsworth during the session of the Grand Jury which indicted Caradine.

He "couldn't remember" making any of the statements which included identification of Caradine as a member of the Adamsville Ku Klux Klan, and as the man who led a raid on the home of Mrs. Hugh McDanal, Westwood, on the night of June 10.

Killingsworth testified the raid started from the Adamsville Klan meeting, which he attended.

Testimony introduced by the state yesterday and today showed that defense attorneys for a least two of the persons indicted on flogging and similar charges had visited four state witnesses.

The attorneys obtained signed affidavits from them stating they erred in identification of a preacher who prayed for the victims of a triple flogging.

KILLINGSWORTH could not remember, among other things, naming Caradine as a member of the Ku Klux Klan Klodan . That, he told the Grand Jury, was an organization which handled investigations for the night riding order.

He could not recall telling about Caradine being at the Klan meeting the night of June 10.

He could not recall this question and answer from the Grand Jury testimony:

"Who made the announcement about going on the raids?"

"To the best of my knowledge and recollection, it was Mr. Caradine."

He could not remember telling the Grand Jury, "In my best judgment, Byrd Caradine was the man who bumped the door" at Mrs. McDanal's home.

* * *

JUST BEFORE Killingsworth took the stand, an attempt to introduce nude pictures as evidence caused a hot exchange of words between opposing attorneys.

The witness, Mrs. McDanal, also joined in the exchange from the witness stand.

Jack Miller, deputy sheriff for the Juvenile Court, testified that he passed Mrs. McDanal's home the night of the raid and witnessed the cross burning.

George W. Reed, West Jefferson merchant, testified about watching a large band of men invade Jack Alexander's home.

The flareup, which resulted in an unsuccessful motion for a mistrial, came after Mrs. McDanal told how a band of hooded men broke into her home the night of June 10, manhandled her, and forced her to watch a cross burn in her front yard.

She said the robed men accused her of "renting rooms and seelling whisky."

On cross-examination, Defense Atty. Jim Gibson asked if the hooded band had not accused her of selling nude pictures.

* * *

SHE DENIED IT, then Gibson jumped to his feet, waving several large pictures of nude women before the jury. Deason immediately asked the court to protect this witness against such intimidations.

Before he could finish his request, Mrs. McDanal cried out to Gibson: "That could be your wife for all I know. It is not my picture."

When the attorney asked to offer it in evidence, she again cried out, "Are you going to strip me off, like they did that night?"

Circuit Judge Alta L. King ruled out all the pictures, which Gibson had sought to introduce. When he tried to introduce more, Deason said "It's absolutely ridiculous for a man who is supposed to be an ethical lawyer to come in here like this."

Gibson immediately moved for a mistrial on grounds of "highly improper" and "inflammatory statements by Deason."

* * *

SWORN AFFIDAVITS concerning the identity of a man who prayed over three lash victims had held the spotlight during the earlier part of the trial, which opened yesterday morning.

Bobby Alexander, 14-year-old son of Jack Alexander, testified that a group of hooded, robed men broke into his home to snatch away his father and Mary Alice Henderson.

Willie Stevens was beaten by a hooded band the same night.

* * *

BOBBY SAID ALL the men were masked except one he identified from the stand as the Rev. Mr. Lyons, also under indictment in the flogging cases.

Both Jack Alexander and Miss Henderson testified Lyons was the man who took off his robe and hood and prayed for them before they were beaten with a leather belt.

Defense attorneys introduced, in rebuttal to the identification of Lyons, sworn statements made Nov. 14 by Mr. Alexander and Miss Henderson and Bobby Alexander.

In effect, the statement said witnesses were not certain in their identification of Lyons.

The three state witnesses testified they signed the statements during the visit to their homes by George Rogers, attorney for Lyons, and Jim Gibson, attorney for Caradine, along with Atty. Charles Hewitt and a stenographer.

Atty. Hewitt is Atty. Gibson's law partner.

Bobby Alexander testified today the group came to his home while his father was there and talked about 30 minutes. The boy said portions of the statement introduced today as evidence by Atty. Gibson were wrong.

He denied saying he was "convinced in my own mind that I was mistaken" about the identity of Lyons. He testified, "I told them I could have been mistaken and not that I know I am mistaken."

* * *

ON CROSS examination, Bobby said that after signing the affidavits he was taken to the solicitor's office by a state investigator, where he heard his father told he would have to "stick" to what testimony he had already sworn to in court or go to a penitentiary.

Later, on re-direct examination, he testified that all the solicitor had said was that he wanted Bobby and his father to "tell the truth—and not to perjure themselves."

The question of having state witnesses sign blank papers handed to them by defense attorneys also came up during Bobby's testimony this morning.

Atty Gibson asked him, "Just what individual suggested to you or told you to say we tried to get you to sign some blank papers with the purpose, I presume, of attempting to embarrass defense counsel?"

Bobby replied, "Nobody. "It's just what I heard."

The boy also testified he had been visited by the Rev. Mr. Lyons and that Coleman A. (Brownie) Lollar had been riding him back and forth to the trial. Lollar was acquitted last month on a charge of flogging while masked.

Bobby said he asked Lollar for the rides.

In direct examination about Bobby's affidavit. Dason asked, "Who was doing the talking?"

"Mr. Rogers," the boy testified.

"What did he say, about Mr. Lyons, I mean?"

"He asked me could I be mistaken," Bobby replied.

"What did you say?"

"I told him I could, but I didn't believe I was."

He was asked what else was said by the attorneys, and testified: "Mr. Rogers, he reckoned to the other man, 'We'd better let them sign a blank,' but Mr. Gibson said no."

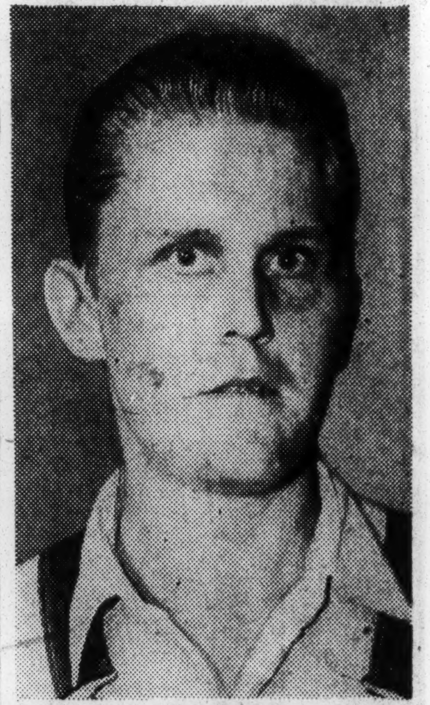
"Bobby, in your best judgment, was that Lyons, the preacher, that was down there that night?"

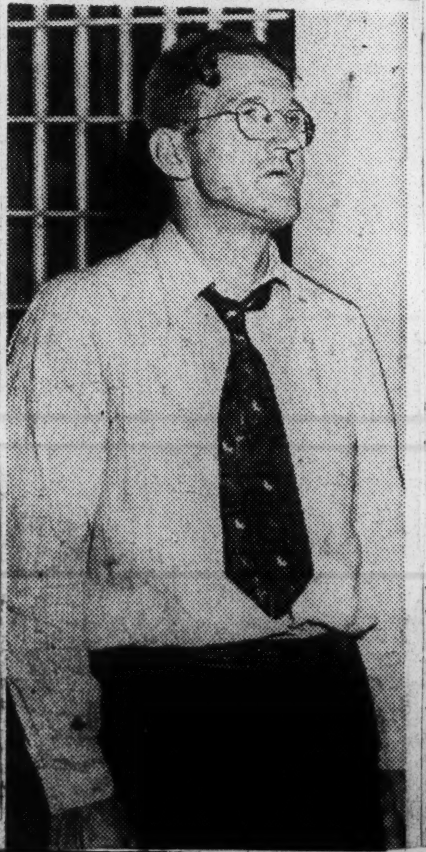
"Yes, sir."

* * *

JACK ALEXANDER testified that when he was asked to sign the affidavits, Atty. Rogers asked, "Reckon we ought to get some blanks signed?" And, said Alexander, Atty. Gibson replied, "Reckon we'd better not."

WAS HE UNMASKED?— Three state witnesses testified they saw the Rev. R. C. Lyons at a West Jefferson flogging. They also signed controversial affidavits in which they said they were not sure about his identity.





HE WAS FLOGGED—Willie Stevens, West Jefferson, was expected to take the stand for the state today against A. B. Caradine, charged with masked flogging. Stevens was flogged with two others on May 19.

Alexander testified he signed the statement, which "was mostly dictated" by Mr. Rogers, but did not agree with its contents.

Earlier, Miss Henderson, who testified she bore three babies to Jack Alexander, said she signed the affidavit when Atty. Rogers told her that two men were at Jack Alexander's house getting him to sign the papers "and Mr. Rogers showed me papers signed by Willie Stevens."

Miss Henderson said Atty. Gibson wrote the statement for her.

She said she signed because the others did and she didn't think her word alone would be worth anything.

It said, in part, "Since thinking about it, I have decided he (Lyons) was not at the floggings."

Atty. Gibson asked Alexander if he meant "copies when you say blanks."

Alexander shook his head. "I thought he said blanks."

THE FLOGGING VICTIM, who said he was bruised for weeks from the lashing, is an arrested tuberculosis case. He is a patient at Jefferson-Hillman Hospital, and court was delayed while he was brought into the courtroom from the hospital. He was admitted there yesterday, but said he has not yet received a report about his illness.

Alexander said he was sitting on his front porch with Miss Henderson the night of May 19 when hooded and robed men drove up in cars. "I was barefooted, and wearing only my underwear and a pair of overalls," he testified.

Alexander said that he and Miss Henderson were hustled into the same car and a man kept a pistol pointed at them until they arrived at Pumpkin Center, near Praco, where they were lashed.

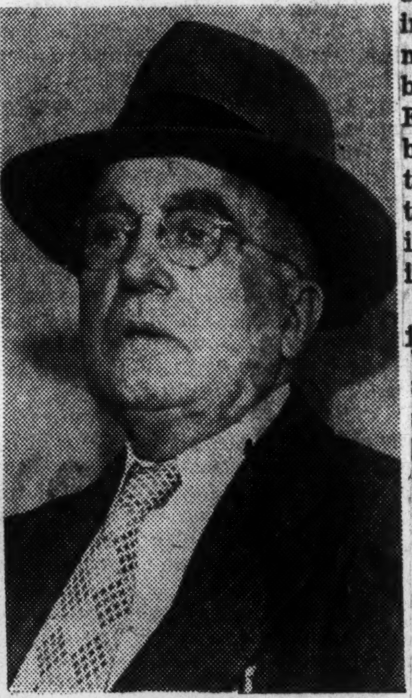
He said the men made him pull off all his clothes and then applied the lash.

"Who was wielding that leather strap?" Deason asked.

"Byrd Caradine," Alexander replied.

Deason pointed to the defendant and asked, "This man here?"

WITHOUT LEANING forward Alexander said, "That is the man."



HE WATCHED—G. W. Reed, West Jefferson merchant, said he watched a large party of hooded men invade the home of Jack Alexander last May 19.

KLAN VISIT—Bobby Alexander, 14, son of a flogging victim, testified that hooded men who invaded his home said, "We're the Ku Klux."

Miss Henderson's testimony was along the same line as that by Alexander.

She said she did not recognize anyone in the group of floggers as Caradine.

UNDER cross-examination by Atty. Gibson, she said she had been "going with" Alexander since 1941 and had borne him three babies.

Atty. Gibson made three moves to have a mistrial declared yesterday, but all were denied. Two were made while Alexander's illness was being discussed on the grounds the talk had aroused sympathy for the flogging victim. The other came after what Atty. Gibson called an "improper remark" by Solicitor Deason.

12-7-49

The Law Must Prevail

The second of the cases growing out of masked flogging and other lawless activities in this county in the Spring has ended in a mistrial. A jury had deliberated from early Saturday afternoon until Monday morning. Deputy Solicitor Deason, who prosecuted the case, said there will be a retrial.

In all, 18 men were indicted on flogging and related charges. The first case resulted in acquittal. It was reported yesterday that no other flogging cases will be set for trial before January, and probably not before February. But the lapse of time should not be permitted to obscure the importance of these cases or to lessen public concern for the effective functioning of the law in dealing with the outrageous crimes committed in this community.

If lawless assumption of the power to judge and condemn and punish goes without the punishment which it so clearly deserves the danger of a repetition of such shameful and terrible things will, of course, be greatly heightened.

It is unthinkable that men should be permitted to feel that they can engage in such vicious activities as masked flogging without any fear of having to answer to the law for their crimes. Unless the men guilty of last Spring's sheeted frightfulness are given the exemplary and punitive treatment they deserve, there will be a strengthening of such feelings in Jefferson County.

The vast majority of our people are resolved to put a decisive end to such lawlessness. But they must depend on the functioning of the law which such activities so gravely challenge as the major instrument of their resolution.

News 12-13-49 Birmingham Ala.

Klan Menace Still Present

FROM BIRMINGHAM WORLD

Newspaper reports of a meeting held in Warrior, Ala., where Mr. William Hugh Morris, head of the Federated Ku Klux Klan, spoke are disturbing.

The reports say that the flash gun of a newspaper photographer was broken by a klansmen. The reporter-photographer was trying to make pictures of a public meeting, such an act brought an attack on the press. It appears to be an attempt to scare off reporters and intimidate the press.

Mr. Morris was making his first speech after spending 67 days in jail for defying the courts and raising up against organized law. He purged himself by remembering 28 names.

What shocks us is the report that "A State Highway Patrol officer and a Warrior policeman 'looked the other way' while a newspaper photographer's camera was being attacked. Public opinion should be worked up over this. For must one ask whether the klan influence has wormed like maggots into law enforcement?

On the night before this meeting, four fiery crosses were allegedly burned in Warrior, two in front of Negro cafes. A public officer in Warrior reportedly directed traffic for a klan parade on the same night the hate crosses burned.

The klan must be checked, crushed and driven under law. Such acts as reported from Warrior must not be ignored. The klan menace is still present.

Three Named As Ku Kluxers Dispute Morris

Two Admit Affiliation 20 Years Ago; One Flatly Denies It

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., Sept. 21 —(AP)— Three of the alleged 28 Ku Klux Klan members named by Klan Director William Hugh Morris denied any present affiliation with the organization.

Two of the men said they had belonged to the order 20 years ago and the third denied ever having been a member.

The three who denied Klan membership were L. B. Seymour, a jeweler, Dr. Travis McGahey, physician, and Nelson Brackin, retired jeweler.

Seymour said, "I have never had any dealings with Morris and I don't belong to the Federated Ku Klux Klan. I don't know how he ever tied me up with his organization."

Brackin's statement said:

"I have not been to any meeting nor paid any dues in the Ku Klux Klan in more than 20 years and have not regarded myself as a member for more than 20 years. At that time all of the public officials and officers of the law that I can now recall were also members."

Dr. McGahey said:

"All I want to say is I joined the Klan in 1925. I was initiated by Hugo Black (now U. S. Supreme Court Justice) and at that time practically all of the judges and county officials were members.

"I paid my initiation fee and never attended another meeting. I have never seen Mr. Morris so far as I know. I do not know where he got my name.

"I am not now a member of the Klan, and have not been since 1925."

The names were given to the grand jury Monday on condition that the contempt of court charge would be dismissed and Morris released.

The names:

The Rev. A. T. Wood, Brookside; a Mr. Seymour; N. L. Brackin; the Rev. Bearden, identified as a Baptist minister; W. O. Broyles; a Mr. Black; D. H. Brough; a Mr. Driggers; A. M. Lemley, Bessemer; Jack Smith, Tarrant; a Mr. Peak; a Mr. Townsend, Bessemer; Joe Stevens; J. S. Elliott, Ensley; Hollis B. Parrish, Sr.; R. S. Gulledge, Jr.; E. B. Brasfield, Pratt City; J. L. Walker, Sumiton; the Rev. Henry Black, Adamsville; Richard Lollar; Byrd Carridine, West Jefferson; T. V. Weaver, Westwood; J. S. Mooneyham, Westwood; E. E. Campbell, Birmingham; R. M. Arnott, Bessemer; A. D. Driver, "with Birmingham Electric Co."; a Mr. Jones, Tarrant City; A Dr. McGahey.

Klan Kontroversy— Morris Disparages Roper-Spinks Union Of Ku Klux Forces

Klan Chief William Hugh Morris says he can prove that Samuel Roper of Atlanta didn't gain more than "two K. K. K. members" by joining forces with Lycurgus Spinks.

Spinks, who recently formed the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan with headquarters in Montgomery, Ala., had claimed a membership of 265,000 in many states.

Roper, imperial wizard of the Association of Georgia Klans, announced Saturday night he had merged his group with that under Spinks.

Under the new setup, Roper is imperial wizard of the Associated Klans of America. Spinks will serve as his imperial chaplain and public relations counselor.

* * *

ROPER AND SPINKS said the Alabama Federated Ku Klux Klans, Inc., under Morris split "wide open" last week and added that half of its chapters have joined Roper's new group.

Morris vigorously denied this in a telegram to Roper last night. The wire said in part:

"Representatives of 65 Klans, belonging to the Federated Ku Klux Klans, Inc., with a bonafide membership of 30,000, met Saturday night and voted full confidence in my leadership and decided unanimously to remain in the Federated Ku Klux Klans, Inc."

* * *

MORRIS TOLD NEWSMEN later that:

"I can prove Spinks didn't have more than two members—Spinks himself and another guy—when he joined with Roper. Apparently Spinks is carrying Brother Roper on a snipe hunt."

Morris said his organization, instead of breaking up, is growing. The meeting of Klavern leaders here Saturday night was to "consolidate" gains made in membership in the past 10 days, he added.

The balding, 44-year-old roofing contractor also denied an announcement by the Rev. Alvin Horn of Talladega that four Klaverns seceded last Thursday.

* * *

"A FEW MEMBERS from the Klaverns at Pell City, Talladega and Odenville may have pulled out," Morris said. "But I believe, they're just temporarily—waiting to see what happens."

Morris was released last Tuesday after spending 67 days in jail under a contempt of court citation.

He was jailed for refusing to produce Klan records for a grand jury investigation.

Spinks' Spooks Give Up Ghost; Join Georgians

Ku Klux Klan's Merger Cuts Imperial Emperor Down To Press Agent

Headquarters Shut

Sam Roper Takes Over Imperial Wizard Post; Morris Rallies Allies

The Knights of the Ku Klux Klan of America, formed here Aug. 23, has given up the ghost.

Lycurgus Spinks, who called himself "Doctor" and claimed he was a Baptist minister, is no more an "Imperial Emperor."

What Spinks termed "national headquarters" of the KKK of America has been closed here.

Sam W. Roper of Atlanta, imperial wizard of the Association of Georgia Klans and successor to the late Dr. Samuel Green, announced in Knoxville, Tenn., last night that his group and Spinks' had merged into the Associated Klans of America.

Spinks To Be Chaplain

Roper took over the title of Imperial Wizard of the AK of M, and announced former Imperial Emperor Spinks had been chosen Imperial Chaplain and public relations counselor (publicity agent).

Closing of Montgomery's "national headquarters" of the KKK of America—a downtown hotel bedroom—also was announced at the Knoxville Klan induction of three women and five men into a local Klavern.

Roper did all the talking, apparently. Long-haired Lycurgus wasn't quoted by the wire services. Roper apparently knew what he was talking about, because Spinks' hotel here said he wasn't registered there any more.

Take Poke At Morris

Lycurgus, who rallied all of 50 men who he claimed to represent six states for his August organizational meeting here, formed the KKK of America while William Hugh Morris, who heads the Alabama Federated Klans, was sweating out a contempt of court sentence in Birmingham jail.

Spinks and Roper took a backhanded poke at Morris in Knoxville, saying jointly that the Federated Klans had split "wide open" in the past week and that half of the Klaverns had joined in their merger.

Maybe they had something. At least Morris called a Birmingham rally of what he estimated were representatives of 50 Klaverns last night. No news had leaked out at press time.

Morris finally unjugged himself by giving Circuit Judge Robert Wheeler names of 28 alleged Klan members, after having refused to name anyone for a Jefferson County grand jury. Three of them said they were not members.

Charges Double-Cross

Speaking Friday night to a crowd at Warrior, Morris said, without further explanation:

"Records weren't revealed because I wouldn't be a Judas Iscariot and go back on my oath."

He even said he was double-crossed when the names were released in circuit court, saying he'd been promised the list "would be kept in strict confidence."

Spinks and his spooks, estimated by him to total 265,000, got a cool Montgomery reception. The city commission unanimously announced the day after organization of this group that it wasn't welcome here and hoped "headquarters" would move on.

Silent On Membership

Roper told a Knoxville reporter "that is a Klan secret" when asked how many members the Associated Klans of America now has.

Roper said that under the new organization there still would be an Association of Georgia Klans and Klan associations in numerous other states.

In a statement announcing the combine, Roper said:

"Contrary to the belief of some few, the purposes of the Klan have been, and are, to promite truly Americanism throughout this great country of ours, and we believe we have gone a long way toward this end:

"We know that today our organization is stronger in membership and principles than it has ever been before. We propose to work continuously to build up our organization and to ferret out any undesirables among our ranks. if and when we find them."

Power of Race in South Alarming, Kluxer States

200 Hear Ala. Hate Baiter Rave Against Communists, Minority Citizens; Orderly

NOTASULGA, Ala. — Raving that there is threat of colored domination in the South, Hugh Morris, Birmingham Ku Klux Klansman, warned about 200 Macon County residents that there is danger brewing in Dixie.

Lacking at the meeting which was held last week in the Citizens Hardware Building, were the white robes which have become a symbol of klainism.

Waving the old red flag scare, Morris called Communists "modern carpetbaggers" and described the South as a "white man's country."

Objects To Colored Voting

He declared that the Communists plan to set up colored republics in regions where colored citizens predominate and tried to prove it by asserting that having colored persons register to vote was a step in that direction.

Morris recently was cited for contempt of court and forced to spend 58 days in jail. His listeners applauded only at the conclusion of his address, and this was very brief.

About a dozen women were included in the small audience. Present also was State Senator Forrest Bridges and E. H. Reynolds, a local attorney. Bridges explained that the meeting was orderly.

Pressure in Tuskegee

Originally the meeting was scheduled to be held in Tuskegee. Queried about this, Morris explained that the arrangements had been up to the people "down here" and they decided on Notasulga.

However, rumors were to the effect that pressure had been exerted in Tuskegee to shift the gathering.

Sharing the platform with Morris was Ocie D. Rutherford of Tuskegee, and Wiley Kirby of Notasulga.

Jury Is Hung In Klan Case

Birmingham, Dec. 12 (AP)—A mistrial was declared today in the case of a Ku Klux Klan leader accused of masked flogging.

The jury reported, after deliberating over the week end, that it could not reach a verdict. It received the case at 12:42 p.m. Saturday.

A. B. Carradine, 40-year-old West Jefferson mechanic, was tried on a charge he flogged Jack Alexander and two others the night of May 19.

He admitted being an officer of the Stonewall Jackson Klavern at near-by Adamsville, but denied he ever had gone on Klan raids or wielded the lash over any flogging victims.

Assistant Solictor Cecil Deason announced Carradine would be retried on the charge, which carries a maximum penalty of 10 years.

SOUTH MAKES HEADWAY IN FIGHT ON THE KLAN

Signal Victories Scored in Alabama, Once the Hooded Order's Citadel

By JOHN N. POPHAM
Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., July 23—The significance of the grand jury investigation into masked-mob activities in this area lies in its dramatization of the conflict between the Ku Klux Klan and the New South.

In this particular instance the burgeoning forces of the New South have won a signal victory. Furthermore, it has emphasized the reasons for victory or defeat in other Klan battles in Southern States and has indicated the points at which the Klan's opponents must concentrate their strength.

Jefferson County, of which Birmingham is the county seat, was a citadel of Klan strength in the Twenties. The Klan was politically dominant in Alabama then and public officials from the Governor down were beholden to the hooded order. At that time Hugo L. Black, now an Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court, was a Birmingham Klansman.

During that same period a proposed anti-mask law was defeated in the State Legislature and measures calling for punishment of the press because of attacks on the Klan were introduced in the Assembly.

Indictments, New Law

Today, several weeks after a local grand jury cracked down on a recent outbreak of Klan depredations in the Birmingham area, more than a score of persons are under indictment on various charges in connection with floggings and intimidation, the state director of the Ku Klux Klan is in jail for contempt of court and the Alabama Legislature has overwhelmingly voted in favor of an anti-mask law.

The credit for this situation unquestionably goes to a splendid synchronization of vigorous leadership representing political, civic, patriotic, business, labor, veterans', religious and newspaper interests. The dovetailing of these forces in a common purpose is unprecedented in the annals of the South.

At the first indication that the Klan was on the rise again, Alabama's newspapers denounced the outrages and called for stern action by law-enforcement officials.

In Birmingham, civic and business groups, ministers and labor leaders formed a joint public committee which demanded punitive steps against the masked marauders. They held giant public rallies at which community leaders excoriated the Klan and its aims.

Alabama's youthful and liberal-minded Governor, James E. Folsom, moved swiftly against the Klan threat, dispatching four state investigators to Jefferson County to dig up evidence and also urging the Legislature to give him an anti-mask law for further protection.

The grand jury which returned indictments was directed in its scanning of evidence and interrogation of witnesses by an Army war veteran and deputy solicitor, Emmett Perry, who was architect of the legal maneuvers that put William Hugh Morris, state Klan director, in jail for contempt for refusing to produce Klan membership lists.

Lagging States

The factors in Alabama's successful fight against the Klan are edifying when compared with the picture in other Southern States where the organization has shown a resurgence. The missing link is readily apparent in each case.

In Florida, a progressive-minded Governor, Fuller Warren, called the masked bands "sheeted jerks and hooded hoodlums" and recently asked for an anti-mask law. Newspapers joined in denouncing the Klan, but there was no rallying of the public by civic and patriotic groups on the scale of the Birmingham case, and the proposed measure was not adopted.

In Atlanta, the metropolis of the Southeast, newspapers, church groups and young business men recently pressed for an anti-mask law. The Georgia Governor, Herman Talmadge, campaigned for office on a white-supremacy platform and has declined to comment on reports that the grand dragon of Georgia's Klan was a member of his staff. The Legislature defeated the anti-mask bill.

These developments lead to the important question: What, in general, is the feeling of the South about the Klan and what is likely to be the result of the present disturbances involving the Klan and its opponents?

There is ample evidence that a large majority of the southern people are opposed to the Klan. In Alabama, it is estimated that there are 17,000 Klan members. In Georgia, the figure tops that. These members are largely in the rural areas and also among the lower-level police officers in towns and cities, so that the Klan often wields a power greater than its numerical strength indicates.

It is important to note that in the Alabama case public resentment was aroused after a series of floggings in which all of the victims were white persons. It is obvious that where Klan victims have been Negroes the reaction has not been so quick and forceful, except in newspaper editorials. A large part of this is due to the caliber of law-enforcement officers on the sheriff and constable level.

It seems certain that night-riding and flogging by the Klan will continue to break out in various parts of the South for some time to come. In some instances it will go unpunished and in others it will lead to strong new laws.

The Birmingham case has offered the pattern for marshaling forces against the Klan and it is one of the most hopeful signs on the Southern horizon. It will require a steady fight by the forces of the New South to make it a general regional pattern, but those forces have entered the fray and tasted first blood.

ON THE KKK

Fitzpatrick in The St. Louis Post-Dispatch
"New day in Alabama."

Manning in The Arizona Republic
"Blowing the lid off."

Reps. J. G. (Jimmie) Adams, Jr., Will Sadler, Harry Beatty, Wallace Gibson and Paul Meeks, who spoke in that order, also addressed the Exchange Club at its Redmont Hotel luncheon yesterday.

Sadler told the luncheon group why the Legislature, which passed a law unmasking the Ku Klux Klan, took no action to revoke its charter.

"Regardless of how we felt about the Klan and reported acts by some members of the order," said Rep. Sadler, "we felt there had been no adjudication of guilt of the Klan. We felt that until those members had been convicted by a jury of 12 men that the Legislature should not revoke the Klan's charter.

"Without having any sympathy for the organization, that was our attitude on revocation of its charter.

Alabama Press

The Klan Catching It

(From The Baldwin Times, Bay Minette)

The K. K. K. isn't doing so well in Alabama. The hooded boys are catching the dickens from every side. Only a few publications and citizens even attempt to justify the existence of an organization that must do its dirty work under the cover of darkness and hoods.

There is one publication in Birmingham which obviously would like to see the Klan prosper and grow. But even it doesn't have the courage to come right out and say so. Rather it just takes back handed slaps at the newspapers and others who are bringing hooded hoodlums to their knees in Alabama.

But The Birmingham News and Age-Herald are doing an outstanding job in exposing violence and terrorism in that section of Alabama. More power to them.

Unmasking Hoodlums

(From The Huntington (W. Va.) Advertiser)

Alabama has become the first state in the South to strike a real blow at the resurging Ku Klux Klan, which most Southern authorities blame for the rising tide of violence in that region.

The Alabama Legislature has just put upon the statute books a new law that bans the wearing of masks, hoods or robes in public places. The penalty is a $500 fine or a year in jail.

There is some talk that the state may go a step farther and revoke the Klan's charter, thus making it an outlaw organization. It is an action all decent American citizens will warmly approve.

They also would like to see long procession of Southern states to follow Alabama's lead. Nothing would be more gratifying to see this great section rid itself of night-riding hoodlums and terrorists without interference from the outside.

It seems incredible that we should have to be decrying such primitive violence in a 1949 America. In fact, were we not so well aware of the tragic results of this practice, we probably would be tempted to laugh heartily at the absurdly silly business of grown men running around in flapping white garments.

But, stripped of their bedsheets, these latter-day terrorists can be seen for what they are: Nazi-style bully boys with an even bigger streak of cowardice, if that is possible.

Alabama has had the fundamental good sense to unfrock these spineless bullies permanently.

There is evidence, too, that it is earnestly determined to find among them those who were responsible for the recent floggings and other outrages in the Birmingham area. A county Grand Jury already has returned a dozen or more indictments.

* * *

These various state and local moves to stamp out hooded violence have not kept Congress from launching its own inquiry into the outbreaks. A House judiciary subcommittee is looking into them.

No harm can come from a further airing of the facts so that all Americans can understand the menace for what it is. But Congress ought to do nothing to discourage the excellent beginning Alabama has made toward crushing this particular lawlessness.

It should allow state authorities a chance to follow through. And permit a little time for us to see whether Alabama's behavior may not prove contagious to its neighbors.

Solicitor Perry Pledges Continued Fight On Mobs

Solicitor Emmett Perry Saturday pledged a continued fight against mob violence. In a statement issued after the Grand Jury indicted 14 men for night riding activities, Mr. Perry said:

"The investigation of mob violence in Jefferson County has just begun.

"Local self government is the very essence of democracy. It must survive as the left-blood of our free government.

"In our county courthouse the people have placed public officials and enforcement officers to

administer our local laws. They must succeed in this task.

* * *

All Must Condemn'

"CITIZENS' COMMITTEES, individuals—everybody who believes in such government—must condemn mobs, hooded or unhooded, who usurp the powers of these officials.

"At the same time, we, who are entrusted with law enforcement, must see that maximum effort is expended to the end that the people are at least safe from lashings by mobs and invasions of Birmingham.

News Age-Herald

"Both citizens and officials should feel derelict in their duties until the last mobster faces a qualified and intelligent jury.

Jun. 7-10-49

"These cases cannot be closed. The search for the guilty parties must continue unabated until each culprit faces a fair trial in open court—a providence denied their victims."

* * *

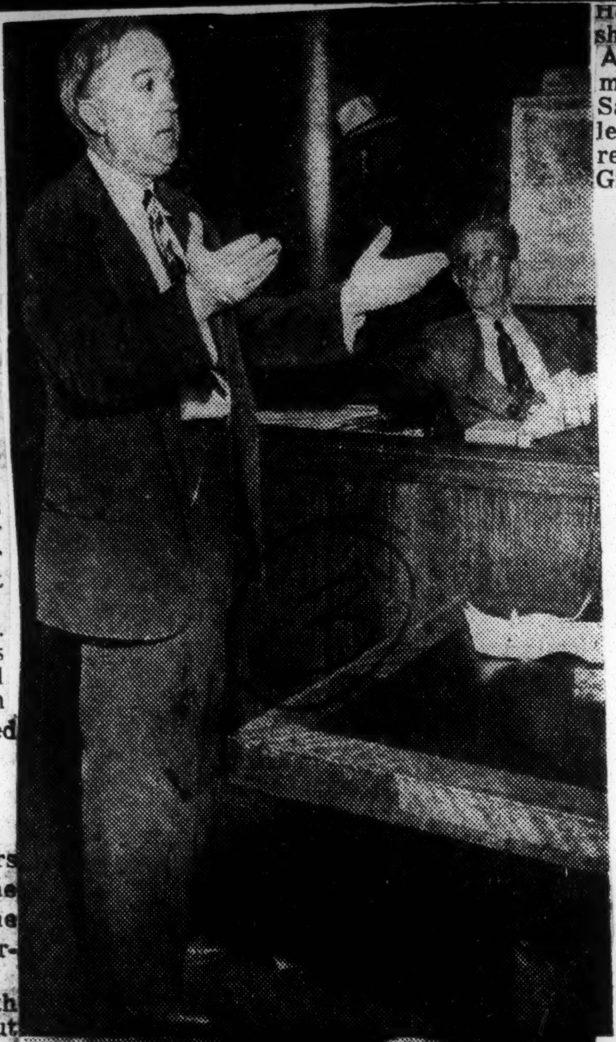
Will Be Back

FOUR STATE investigators who worked night and day on the flogging cases presented to the Grand Jury will be back in Birmingham Monday.

Birmingham, Ala

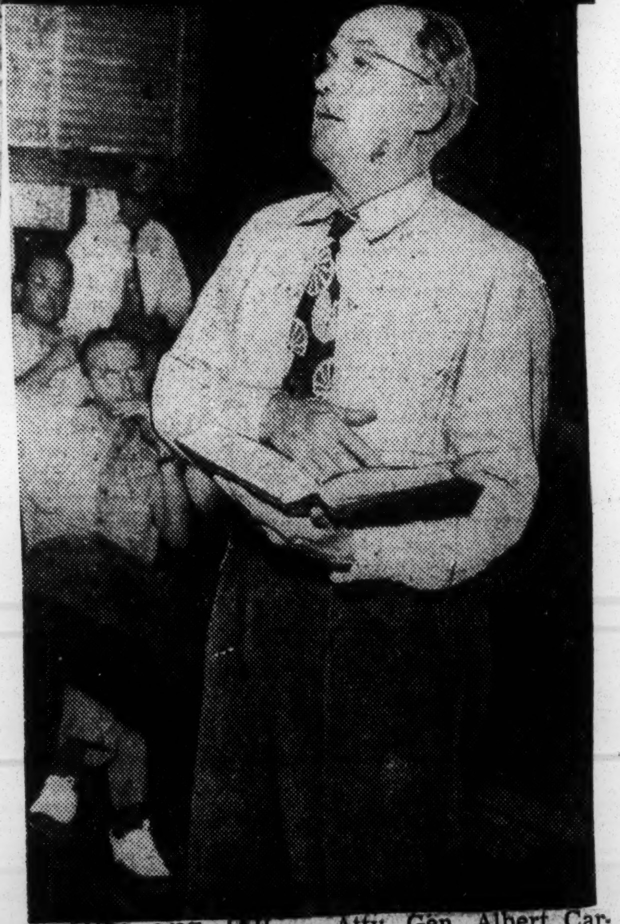
The four men, together with Solicitor Perry, went without sleep for days while digging up witnesses and evidence to be placed before the Grand Jury.

The state officers, assigned here by Bankhead Bates, director of the State Department of Public Safety, are W. L. Allen, Ben Allen, Cecil Sanderson and C. E. Benton.



Heated words were passed on whether Morris should be required to produce the evidence.

ASKS MORRIS' FREEDOM — Atty. Hugh Locke makes his plea before Judge Robert J. Wheeler Saturday for release of William Hugh Morris, Klan leader. Morris was jailed for contempt when he refused to produce Klan records for study by the Grand Jury.



ARGUES FOR JAIL — Atty. Gen. Albert Carmichael reads from a law book in his argument to keep William Hugh Morris in jail "until he produces Klan records asked by the Grand Jury."

Carmichael Plea; Kill Klan Charter

MONTGOMERY, Ala., June 28—Atty. Gen. Albert Carmichael urged the Legislature today to revoke the charter of the Ku Klux Klan in Alabama.

Carmichael advised members of the House and Senate that they have ample authority to cancel the charter of the Federated Klan, which was incorporated in Jefferson County July, 1946.

To back his statement, the attorney general cited several sections of the state constitution.

Simultaneously, in a prepared statement to the press Carmichael declared: "Clearly the activities of the Ku Klux Klan are injurious to the citizens of this state. These activities have consisted of floggings, terrorization and other lawless demonstrations contrary to all accepted concepts of decency and good order."

The attorney general declared further that "many innocent persons have suffered physical harm at the hands of Klan members, and countless others have been forced to live in an atmosphere of uncertainty and fear."

Klan leaders, however, have denied vigorously that their organization has had anything to do with recent acts of hooded terrorism in Alabama.

Because the Klan is incorporated in Jefferson County, the attorney general sent copies of his recommendation to all members of the Jefferson County delegation in the House and Senate. He also enclosed a suggested legislative act to revoke the Klan charter.

Copies were sent also to Sen. Paul Hooten of Randolph and Rep. E. L. Roberts of Etowah, chairman of the Senate and House judiciary committees.

Carmichael, who was asked by Gov. Folsom to take legal steps to outlaw the Klan, told the legislators in his letter:

"I have given serious consideration to the matter of revoking the corporate charter of the Ku Klux Klan. I am firmly convinced that such action should be taken at once, a thorough investigation . . . has convinced me that the most feasible method of revoking the Klan's charter is by legislative act.

"Any corporation is a mere creature of the state and may be destroyed by its creator under certain conditions," Carmichael said, citing the constitution as authority fo[r] taking such actions.

Further, he referred to Sectio[n] 238 of the constitution which speci[fi]cally gives the Legislature powe[r] to dissolve any corporation "whenever that corporation in the opinion of the Legislature, is injurious to the citizens of Alabama.

Carmichael Here

Atty. Gen. Albert Carmichael is in Birmingham today to check into the hooded mob investigations.

The attorney general conferred at length with Sheriff Holt A. McDowell, then with Solicitor Emmett Perry.

"I will be here for several days," the attorney general said.

He would not comment on his discussions with the sheriff or the solicitor.

Sheriff McDowell said "we talked about everything from baseball to grand opera."

TOP KLAN OFFICIAL QUITS IN ALABAMA

Pruitt Asserts Floggers Used Insignia Falsely—Morris' Papers Are Stolen

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., July 21 (AP)—Dr. E. P. Pruitt, the ranking Alabama Ku Klux Klan leader, resigned today as a grand jury prepared to take new evidence in the state's war on masked mobsters.

The home of William Hugh Morris, state Klan leader, now in jail for refusing to produce Klan records, was ransacked during the night and some papers were stolen. Whether the Klan records were taken was not known.

Dr. Pruitt, a 72-year-old Birmingham physician, resigned as president of the Federated Ku Klux Klans, Inc., after a row with Mr. Morris.

"I differ with some of the elements that have wormed their way into the Klan—men who used Klan robes to go out and whip people," Dr. Pruitt said.

The grand jury is investigating the white-robed order in connection with a wave of floggings and cross burnings by masked mobs. It has been called into session tomorrow after a week's recess. Seventeen persons were indicted for mob violence by a previous grand jury.

Morris' Home in Disorder

Mr. Morris' home in the Mount Olive community, fifteen miles north of here, was found in great disorder today by Mrs. Morris, who had spent the night elsewhere. Mr. Morris, in jail since July 7 on a contempt citation for refusing to give the records to a grand jury, said his Klan papers were there and might have been stolen.

"How can I ever get out of jail if the records are stolen?" he asked.

Dr. Pruitt and Mr. Morris, who have differed before, disagreed over when the physician had resigned.

Mr. Morris told newsmen he had been head of the order since June 14. He announced Dr. Pruitt's resignation more than twelve hours before the physician was ready to say he had quit.

Dr. Pruitt said he was moving to Springville, Ala., twenty-six miles northeast of here, to resume the practice of medicine.

The Klan was attacked on a new front today by Attorney General Albert A. Carmichael, the state's chief prosecutor.

At Montgomery, Mr. Carmichael said:

"We have definite proof that Klan members took part in at least four floggings in recent weeks, that the Klan instigated those acts, and that they were official actions of the Federated Ku Klux Klans, Inc."

Mr. Carmichael urged support for a measure to revoke the KKK charter in Alabama.

4 Klaverns Leave Klan Horn Says

TALLADEGA, Ala.—(AP)—Four Klaverns were reported yesterday to have seceded from the Federated Ku Klux Klan, Inc., headed by William Hugh Morris.

The announcement was made by the Rev. Alvin Horn, previously active as a Klan organizer under Morris. He listed the seceding Klaverns as those of Talladega, Pell City, Chelsea and Odenville. All are in East Central Alabama.

Horn said the four had formed an independent group.

The announcement brought a prompt denial by Morris at Birmingham. He said Horn was completely wrong about the Chelsea group and "pretty optimistic about two of the others."

Morris said leaders of the Chelsea Glavern "assure me that they have not withdrawn and that they have no intention of withdrawing."

"As for Odenville and Pell City," he added, "I didn't even know we had Klan organizations there."

He said the Talladega Klavern had withdrawn temporarily.

Morris added that "less than two weeks ago, Horn came to see me in jail and assured me that he would be loyal to me and the organization.

"He told me then he had no intention of deserting."

The split was the second within the Morris led organization since he was jailed July 7 for contempt of court. Lycurgus Spinks, who had addressed several Klan gatherings on behalf of Morris, recently organized the Knights of the Ku Klux Klans of America with headquarters in Montgomery.

From Where I Stand

Flogging Trials Are Not The Type That Can Be 'Settled'

BY VULCAN

VULCAN

FIRST OF THE masked flogging trials are to begin tomorrow.

The men charged with taking the law into their own hands are assumed to be innocent unless the state presents evidence in open court to prove otherwise.

It will be the duty of judge and jury to hear all evidence for and against the defendants in these cases, and it will be up to a jury to decide whether guilt has been established. It is the duty of the solicitor to present every available shred of evidence before the jurors.

It also is the duty of jurors to convict men who break the law—regardless of the so-called motives behind the floggings, regardless of the status of the victims.

Defendants in these flogging trials are not brought before the bar of justice to avenge their victims. They are brought to trial because the dignity of the state has been abused, because it is illegal for any man or group of men to take law into personal hands.

You and I will be watching the trials with deep interest—not seeking vengeance in the name of the State of Alabama—but watching to see that justice is done.

These kinds of cases cannot be "settled."

Either the defendants are guilty or they are innocent. If they are not found guilty then they must be freed. If they are found guilty of taking the law into their own hands, then they must be punished according to, by and through the law.

Let no man take these trials lightly.

From Where I Stand

Inner Spat Putting Crimp In Ku Klux; Some Pulling Out

BY VULCAN

VULCAN

THERE'S AN INNER wrangle in the Ku Klux Klan that may break into public print any time now.

Some of the Klansmen are burning their robes, quietly breaking loose from the organization. They are alarmed over the acts of violence that are being laid at the Klan's door, don't want to be found out as members.

"I believe in the oath I took," one alarmed Klan member said, "but I don't want to share the blame for what some people have been doing in hoods and masks."

Some of the members are moving out of the organization in disgust. Others in fear. Still others feel that the "work must go on."

* * *

Leaders Fall Out

FACTIONALISM already has struck the leadership of the secret order. There has been an inner struggle for power within the Klan itself.

Dr. E. P. Pruitt tried to beat the gun on the unmasking law by instructing Klansmen to put aside their visors.

But others, including William Hugh Morris, a director in the organization, are strongly opposed to unmasking.

W. W. Driver, identified as a "Klan investigator" has been busy trying to disprove Klan connections with the recent floggings in Jefferson County. He is a bus driver for the Birmingham Electric Company.

You can expect to see the ill-advised congressional investigation of mob violence here used as a whipping boy to try to distract attention from the "current unpleasantness."

Focus your eyes on law enforcement.

The Klan On The Defensive

The situation in Alabama as regards the Ku Klux Klan and night-riding activities has been changing rapidly the last few days.

One net result of what has happened is to put the Klan still more on the defensive. It begins to appear clearly that the black spots on the state's record cannot all be washed away without positive official action against the hooded organization.

There is no argument over the fact that

many of the floggings and similar offenses committed in this region in recent months have not been the work of the Klan. That is both a defense and an indictment of the Klan. For while it clears the Klan of some direct responsibility, it makes it indirectly responsible in all cases through setting up an example of lawlessness and providing cover for others.

Direct connection of the Klan with at least some of the floggings has been charged by Asst. Atty. Gen. Taylor Hardin, at Montgomery. He said: "There has been definite identification of regalia and personnel of the Klan in (Jefferson County) lashings. (They) definitely involve the Klan in these floggings."

If the Klan had been identified with only one flogging, there would be grounds in that fact alone for revoking its state charter. The Legislature or other state agencies should proceed forthwith to take steps to outlaw the Klan. But the Klan has been linked directly with four lashings, and it cannot escape responsibility for contributing to that attitude of mind which leads non-members of the Klan to take the law into their own hands.

The Klan should be put beyond the pale of legal recognition.

The Klan is still further indicted out of the mouth of one of its leaders. Dr. E. P. Pruitt, founder of the Federated Ku Klux Klan, has resigned as president and chairman of the board of governors of the Alabama Federated Ku Klux Klan, Inc. He says he resigned for "personal reasons" and is leaving town. But he issued a significant statement in which he said, "I differ with some of the elements that have wormed their way into the Klan—men who use Klan robes to go out and whip people."

There you have an acknowledgment of the Klan's responsibility from its titular leader during the period of the floggings. What more is needed? *Fri. 7-22-49*

But in case something more is needed, there is the fact that the leadership of the Klan has fallen to William Hugh Morris, whose attitude toward the law is indicated by the fact that he has been in jail for two weeks because of refusal to obey a court order. A man who defies court authority has become typical of the Klan. Should such an organization be chartered by the state?

The home of Morris in Gardendale is reported ransacked. The only thing missing seems to be some papers taken from a dresser drawer. Perhaps the missing papers were the membership rolls and the records Morris refused to bring into court. Morris says he doesn't know, so it's anybody's guess.

In any case, there is cause for further suspicion when papers mysteriously disappear from the home of its leader. It would appear that somebody might be trying to conceal something.

Surely the time has come to strip the Klan of all cover of legality. We have taken away its right to wear hoods, as far as public places are concerned. Now let's take away its claim that it is operating under legal authority of the state.

Anticipated Move To Unite Southern Klans Is Underway

By BEM PRICE

ATLANTA, Oct. 22—(AP)—The long anticipated move to unite all Southern Klans is underway.

It's a strong movement, spurred by able organizers, and Klansmen are confident the chances that it will succeed within the new year are good.

After the death of Dr. Samuel Green, Imperial Wizard of the Association of Georgia Klans, many believed the Klan would succumb to an international struggle for power.

There were, in fact, many reports that the Georgia Klan, largest and strongest of them all, was split over a successor to Dr. Green. But Samuel Roper, former head of the Georgia Bureau of Investigation, soon emerged in Dr. Green's shoes.

It is Roper, assisted by a Baptist Minister, Lycurgus Spinks, lately Imperial Emperor of the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, who is the leader of the movement to draw all Southern Klans into one camp as the Association Klans of America.

People who live outside the South are apt to forget there is more than one Klan in the South. This has been so since the post World War I Klan was broken in the 1930s.

Sometime the Klan situation is more than slightly confusing but here, insofar as is known, is the present situation:

The Association Klans of America was formed by uniting Roper's Georgia organization and the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan formed by Spinks at Montgomery, Ala., last summer.

At the time he brought the Knights into alliance with the Georgia group, Spinks claimed he had a membership of 265,000.

In any case, Wizard Roper maintains that the present membership of the combined organization is "in the hundreds of thousands."

Then there is the Southern Knights at Tallahassee, Fla., whose spokesman is Bill Hendrix.

Hendrix describes himself as the "National Adjutant" and claims members in 11 Southern states. He says he is subordinate to two anonymous men identified only as "Imperial Emperor Samuel II" and "Imperial Wizard 4-006800."

A third group is the federated Ku Klux Klans, Inc., with headquarters in Birmingham, Ala., and headed by William Hugh Morris, a contractor.

Morris recently went to jail for 67 days until he produced a list of Klan members as part of an investigation into floggings by masked men in and around Birmingham. He claims a membership of 30,000.

The fourth—and the one about which least is known—is that of the original Southern Klans, Inc.

This Klan came into being at Columbus, Ga., and seemed to be composed of two offshoots, the Columbus and Manchester Klaverns, of the Association of Georgia Klans.

The spokesman for this group for a time was a young ex-soldier, Alton Pate. After a brief flurry of excitement over its formation, the Klan closed its office and apparently disappeared.

There is some suspicion that the original Southern Klans, or part of it, may have joined with the Florida group.

Indeed, it was later established that the Klansmen who paraded through Tallahassee to the annoyance of Gov. Fuller Warren were from Georgia and were members of the original Southern Klans.

In recent months, Hendrix has made declarations which involve towns in the territory once claimed by the Georgia group as citadels. It may be that the two Klans are one and the same under a different name, with a new headquarters and a new spokesman.

Police Not Notified Of Cross Burning

The burning of a cross in front of a home at 1200 Wharton Avenue in Tarrant had not been reported to police this morning Police Chief Paul Gaines said.

Numerous persons said they saw the cross aflame in front of the home of Mrs. Lula Butler about 7 o'clock last night. Mrs. Neal Britnell, who lives directly across the street, said she saw a car leave the scene.

Those who saw it said the cross was four or five feet tall. Someone kicked it from the Butler lawn into the gutter, witnesses said.

Klan Hoodlums 'Cut Up' at Trial, But Judge Forgives

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—The trial of 18 Klan hoodlums who took part in flogging attacks this summer has been marked by violence and a display of pistols.

Judge Robert J. Wheeler gave an order to Chief Deputy Sheriff Wilton Hogan to take away the guns of spectators. It was noticed that spectators at the trial had guns after one was seen on the hip of M. V. T. Weaver, who insisted that he was a member of the Klan.

The mother of a witness was slapped in the face by Klansman R. J. Sexton after her daughter pointed him out on the witness stand as one who took part in a flogging attack.

Sexton was ordered to spend 24 hours in jail for contempt of court but this was suspended when he began to sob and cry. Judge Wheeler asked him if he was "genuinely sorry" for what he had done. When Sexton answered, "Oh yes sir," the judge said, "I don't want to be unfair to anyone," and struck the contempt proceeding from the record.

Another Kluxer admitted from the witness stand that a 42-year-old grandmother had been a victim of the hoodlums. He was Boyd Killingsworth. A member of the masked raiding party, Killingsworth testified that he helped direct traffic while robed men in about 30 cars dragged Mrs. Hugh McDanal from her home.

Earlier Mrs. McDanal told the court that "about 100 men with their faces in hoods" dragged her outside to watch a midnight cross-burning. She had been accused by the Klan of "dancing in the nude publicly," a charge she denied.

The defendants were indicted under an Alabama anti-masking law which was passed following a series of mob outbreaks last summer.

Prominent Southerners Called 'Scalawags' By KKK Official

BESSEMER, ALA., Oct. 22 —(U.P.)— A Ku Klux Klan official called prominent Southerners "turncoats," "Carpetbaggers and scalawags" in a speech tonight before about 100 klansmen and some 1,500 spectators.

Bill Henry, Imperial Wizard of the Florida Klan, hurled the "carpetbaggers and scalawags" epithets at Alabama Gov. James E. Folsom and Ralph McGill, liberal editor of The Atlanta (Ga) Constitution.

He called Sen. Claude Pepper, (D-Fla.) a "turncoat Southerners," and said of Florida Gov. Fuller Warren that he was a "member of the Klan for 12 years and then betrayed us."

The rally at which Henry spoke was staged in a vacant lot in a Bessemer residential area behind a stadium in which a Negro foot ball game was in progress. The Negroes' cheering blended with Henry's words.

Masks Worn

A small number of the Klansmen wore traditional masks while on the lot. A recent state law bans mask-wearing on public property. Two mask wearers distributed leaflets saying: "Communism will not be tolerated, wake up America."

Alabama Klan Chief Hugh Morris announced plans to speak Wednesday night at Tuskegee, Ala., the site of Tuskegee Institute for Negroes. Morris jokingly called Tuskegee "the second capital of the U. S."

Morris said he wishes to correct a condition in Alabama in which Negroes are being given Communistic literature. He said he planned to speak on "white supremacy."

Two Deny Owning Cars Reported Seen

Two persons today denied they owned cars which were reported seen at the Westwood home of Mrs. Hugh McDanal the night she was visited by a hooded mob.

The names of the two men, among others, were brought out this week at the Circuit Court trial of C. A. Lollar on charges of flogging while masked. Jack Miller, Juvenile Court deputy sheriff, testified he took down the license numbers of cars parked along the highway.

F. Delmar Hill, 35 Clarendon Drive, said today the car bearing the license plate reported seen at the McDanal home had been sold by him to a man living at Adger.

W. J. Isaacks, 7836 Fourth Avenue, South, said that he has never been a Klan member and has never attended a Klan meeting. Mr. Isaacks said he worked from 3 p.m. to 11 p.m. during the week in June that Mrs. McDanal was visited and that he was not at her home. Mr. Isaacks said his reported visit to the McDanal home had been investigated by the FBI and state agents.

Law And Patience

In one case, Coleman A. Lollar, first to stand trial of those recently indicted in this county on flogging charges, has been acquitted.

The prosecution showed every indication of firm intent to press for conviction.

What happens now? No one can say what will be the outcome of trials yet to be conducted. We need at this time, however, to pause and consider what lies ahead, just as we need to consider what now lies behind us—and all this is our business — with respect to the flogging indictments and prosecutions.

Birmingham and Jefferson County folk may be interested to know that the nation generally indicated strong interest in the proceedings of the trial just past and in its outcome. What seemed significant to many was that here was a Southern community—a Southern county — in the act of trying through the processes of the law to stamp out hooded lawlessness.

Our district, our state, will not be made as law abiding as they should be overnight, or over four nights. This is a long, an arduous effort which is under way. We are engaged upon no single "contest."

We, and for us our law enforcement authorities, are and ought to be engaged in a long, a difficult effort. It is made perhaps to seem the more difficult because of the absolute necessity of moving forward precisely within the law.

Now we enter times which try men's souls not so much as they try men's patience. Grand Jury inquiries and indictments seem one thing; a first flogging trial is of exceptional interest. But ahead lie other trials and still farther ahead, unknown requirements as we seek to maintain law and order to protect the peace, to eliminate fear.

The good citizen will appear as objective as is possible. He will defend orderly

procedure which has been evident, and accept outcome in a spirit which gives law its sturdiest bulwark. He will look forward with courage and with no exhausted drop of the hands, sigh, or glance of hopefulness toward the heavens.

Men of good will, men with respect for constitutional law, know that years may be required before their ultimate goals in this connection are reached. And they will find the patience, the courage and the strength to move forward, one step after another. And in the end they will have built for themselves the kind of society they have set out to create.

Servants Of Brotherhood

SOUTHERN RACE DISTURBANCES or K. K. K. floggings make sensational headlines, while the little acts of kindness between white and colored people seldom get in the newspapers.

In Florence, S. C., for instance, a Negro Western Union messenger, James E. Jones, has spent his extra time and energy in recent years collecting money for the March of Dimes. James Jones has been so energetic and so devoted that he has won the admiration of all citizens in his community, and last year this columnist nominated him as a servant of brotherhood.

The other day, however, the man who had been helping others, himself was taken sick. He was sent to the hospital with a complication of various ailments, leaving a wife and seven children without funds.

Promptly the white citizens of Florence started a campaign to help him. Last January, Jones collected $2,576 to help the March of Dimes. Now his friends are trying to top this mark to help him.

News

Dec. 11, 1949

Pearson

Flog Case Now In Final Stages

Expected To Reach Jury Late Today

The case of Coleman (Brownie) Lollar, charged with flogging while masked, was expected to go to the jury late today.

As the trial moved toward its climax, William Hugh Morris, director of Federated Ku Klux Klans, Incorporated, sat on a front row in Circuit Judge Robert J. Wheeler's courtroom.

Summing up the case before the jury, Solicitor Emmett Perry begged the 12 men to "say to Lollar and his kind that your rule and reign of terror is at an end."

He made frequent comparisons between a "fair trial, before a constituted judge and jury with competent counsel" and "a trial in Pumpkin Center (scene of several floggings) . . . or trials held in Klaverns where men set themselves up as judge and jury.

"Gentlemen, by your verdict you can stop lawlessness in Jefferson County. You can restore the majesty of law to Jefferson."

Defense Atty. George Rogers' summation before the jury was delayed when, as he addressed the jury, he was stricken with a pain in his side.

* * *

IT WAS NOT a serious pain, Mr. Rogers said, and Judge Wheeler recessed the jury until 1 p.m. Mr. Rogers started his summation about 11:45 a.m.

A state investigator was the last rebuttal witness for the state.

Investigator Ben Allen told the court he saw Lollar guarding a Klan meeting the night of June 17 at Adamsville.

Lollar, balding 35-year-old ex-special sheriff's deputy, is charged with flogging while masked. Mrs. Hugh McDanal, of Westwood, identified him as one of a hooded, robed band which invaded her home the night of June 10.

THE INVESTIGATOR said when he saw Lollar a week later, guarding the cars, he asked the defendant if it were not against Klan rules to carry a gun. He said Lollar was armed while guarding the cars.

Allen said Lollar told him it was, and he asked the defendant "Then why did they carry guns to Brookside?"

He said Lollar replied: "Well, a fellow has got to take care of himself."

The state officer said Lollar told him "two lookouts came into the meeting and got me" the night of June 17.

Lollar, on the stand yesterday swore he was never inside the Adamsville Klan hall during a meeting.

* * *

ALLEN SAID that when he told Lollar about a move to revoke the charter of hooded organizations, Lollar said "Then that would mean the end of the Klan because they couldn't go on raids without hoods."

"The best thing for me to do is get out," Lollar was quoted as saying. "This will be the last night."

A letter of apology—and warning—written after a Jefferson County flogging, had the spotlight earlier in the trial today.

THE LETTER bears Lollar's return address. It was mailed to Mrs. Sylvania Alexander, Praco, mother of lash victim Jack Alexander.

C. D. Brooks, state toxicologist, testified today on the letter which had a $10 bill enclosed to pay for damage to the door of the Alexander home when robed men broke in to drag off two victims.

It also warned Jack Alexander he would be watched.

The defendant yesterday wrote two copies of the letter. Brooks testified today that in the judgment the letter and specimens of Lollar's handriting were not written by the same person.

He said there was similarity, but added "In my judgment the similarity of the two writings is due to similar environmental influences. . . . The influence may be due to the fact that the writers were taught by the same teachers or were associated intimately."

Boyd Killingsworth, who admitted Wednesday he was a member of the Adamsville Klan and that the raid on Mrs. McDanal started from a Klan meeting, was a rebuttal witness today.

He said he did not remember telling the Grand Jury that J. W. Chance, of Praco, was at the Klan meeting. Chance is one of three men who testified Lollar was at a baseball game the night Mrs. McDanal was molested.

* * *

THE JUDGE excluded testimony of F. S. Yarborough, Graysville, who said that about four months ago he and Graysville Police Chief Sam Howton saw 20 cars full of robed men.

Yesterday Howton, a character witness for Lollar, said he had not seen any robed men in the area during the past year.

Lollar, wearing the same black suit since last Wednesday for "luck," testified he never was a member of the Stonewall Jackson Klavern of the Ku Klux Klan where he was found guarding cars by state officers the night of June 17.

He said he was a member of the Robert E. Lee Klavern of the Klan. It has headquarters in Birmingham. He told the court his membership in the Klan expired June 30 when he let his dues lapse. He said he was a member for nine months.

(It was Lollar's first admission of membership in the white robed order. In the past he has vehemently denied to reporters any association with Klansmen.)

Lollar said he was guarding cars at the Klan session because he was getting paid and needed the money. He said he never attended sessions there and did not know if his brother, Richard Lollar, was exalted cyclops of the Adamsville Klan the night Mrs. McDanal's home was invaded.

The defendant was named by state witnesses as having taken part in some 14 floggings. He issued a blanket denial and testified he had "never whipped anybody."

He said he never saw Mrs. McDanal before the trial opened. He had the same comment for 17-year-old Sallie Burton, Dora, who said he took part in a mass flogging there the night of June 3.

Lollar said he was positive about attending a baseball game in Birmingham the night Mrs. McDanal was flogged. On cross-examination he testified he could not remember the dates of any other baseball games he attended this year.

He said that on the night Jack Alexander was flogged in Pumpkin Center he was in Birmingham by himself and went to a movie. He did not recall which movie it was.

In answer to questions by Deputy Solicitor Cecil Deason, Lollar said could recall only a few persons who attended the June 17 Klan meeting in Adamsville.

* * *

HE ADMITTED covering car tags there, but did not know how many.

He said that in addition to Bret Brasfield, also under indictment, and J. W. Chance, who said he was at the ball game with Lollar the night of June 10, he could only recall E. E. Campbell as possibly being at the meeting.

Campbell is exalted cyclops of the Robert E. Lee Klavern.

When Lollar stepped down, the defense rested and the state called Bobby Alexander, 14.

The boy testified he was awakened on May 19—the night his father, Jack Alexander, was whipped—just before several hooded, robed men entered his bedroom.

He said one of the men was unmasked. He named the man as R. C. Lyons. He said the men told him, "We're the Ku Klux."

Lyons, a part-time preacher, also is under indictment.

Mary Alice Henderson, Praco, flogged with Jack Alexander, testified that one of the men in the group was George Hood, who had appeared as a character witness for Lollar.

She said Hood drove her home from the flogging and offered her $4 "to go to Birmingham and get a job."

THE WOMAN also named Lyons as one of the group. She said "**he took off his mask and prayed for us.**"

Mother Struck During Row In Witness Room

Part-Time Pastor's Tearful Plea Gets Sentence Set Aside

An altercation between a grandmother and a part-time preacher was touched off in Circuit Court here today when a defiant 17-year-old girl stood up on the witness stand and identified a spectator as a member of a flogging mob.

Sallie Burton was testifying in the trial of Coleman Lollar on charges of flogging while masked.

The preacher, who gave his name as R. J. Sexton, of West Jefferson, then was led into the witness room to await possible call to the stand.

The altercation, between himself and Mrs. Irene Burton, mother of the slender young witness, took place immediately after he entered the witness room.

MRS. IRENE BURTON

MILES DENHAM, reporter for The Birmingham Age-Herald, called to the stand in a contempt of court hearing which followed, said Sexton entered the room and inquired "are you Mrs. Burton?"

Mr. Denham said Sexton's finger was pointed at Mrs. Burton and she pushed it down. He told Judge Robert J. Wheeler that Sexton then struck the girl's mother.

Judge Wheeler sentenced the man to a 24-hour jail sentence for contempt of court, but suspended the sentence after a tearful plea from Sexton.

The jury had been recessed for the contempt hearing.

Sallie Burton was in the middle of her testimony in Lollar's trial when she suddenly stood alert in front of the witness chair and pointed to Sexton, saying "That man is one of them."

Seated near the front of the courtroom, Sexton did not move when her accusing finger first was pointed at him.

Deputy Solicitor Cecil M. Deason asked that Sexton be put under rules of the court and led the teen-aged witness down into the courtroom.

She walked directly to the part-time preacher, pointed her finger directly at him and repeated "He was one of them."

It was then that Sexton was led into the witness room.

As he was sentenced, the man burst into tears and began pleading with the court not to "sentence me to jail on the testimony of a woman that I know what kind of a life she has lived."

"The court already has sentenced you," Judge Wheeler replied. "Sit down."

MRS. BURTON displayed a reddened mark on her jaw, which she said was caused by the blow. Sexton admitted "I might have struck her. I am a nervous man. I was discharged from the service because of my nerves."

At the time he was sentenced, Sexton's wife stood beside him with their baby in her arms. Sexton fondled the child while the court was writing the sentence.

Brokenly, Sexton sobbed: "This is something that I've never had happen to me before, to be arrested."

A few minutes later, Judge Wheeler called him back, asked if he were sorry. The man said "yes" and Judge Wheeler set aside the sentence.

Mrs. Sexton, still holding the tiny child, then burst into tears.

Sallie Burton also had identified the voices of Sam Watkins, of Dora, and L. M. Beard as members of the attacking party. Beard had told reporters he was a victim of a mob on the night the Burton women and the three men were attacked.

Prior to the turmoil, Sallie Burton had told the court she recognized Lollar's voice as one she heard the night 75 to 100 robed men came to her home near Dora. She said the men took her, her mother, and a sister, Troy Morrison

...Koogler and Bill Lowery into nearby woods and flogged them.

Her accusation against Sexton brought the trial to a complete halt.

Willie Stevens, West Jefferson, took the stand after Miss Burton.

He told of being snatched from his bed by a hooded band last May and of being taken to Pumpkin Center where his clothes were pulled down and he was whipped about 10 times.

Stevens said Jack Alexander, of Quinton, and Mary Alice Henderson, also of West Jefferson, were taken to Pumpkin Center the same night.

* * *

HE TESTIFIED the three were whipped with a leather belt four or five feet long, four inches wide and half an inch thick.

Stevens said he heard a man laugh during the beating.

"To the best of my judgment," he said, "it was Brownie Lollar's laugh."

He added he had known Lollar

MAKES ACCUSAL—Sally Burton.

about nine years and worked with him two years.

Alexander next took the stand and told how about 100 hooded men snatched him and Mary Alice Henderson from his home and beat them. He said the men accused him of not working. He said he could not work because he has a case of arrested tuberculosis.

Before court recessed for the noon meal, Alexander told how a man wearing a robe, but no hood

prayed over them before the beatings.

Lollar already had been named by witnesses as a member of two other hooded and robed flogging parties.

This morning, Mrs. Elizabeth Sanders, near Dora, said she recognized Lollar's voice when a hooded band raided her home last April 22. She said Lollar was one of about 100 men who helped flog her, her daughter, Opal; Albert Sanders and Oscar Spradlin, who were at the home.

In earlier testimony, two admitted members of the Federated Ku Klux Klan, linked the night-robed order with night-riding activities in Jefferson County on the night of June 10.

The Klansmen testified yesterday at the trial of Lollar, charged with flogging while masked, that the raids started from a Klan rally in Adamsville.

Lollar, a former special deputy sheriff, is the first tried of 18 men indicted on various charges after a wave of night riding violence in this area last May and June.

He is being tried for the June 10 raid on the home of Mrs. Hugh McDanal, 42-year-old grandmother.

As the state's first witness yesterday she named Lollar as one of a hooded group which broke into her home, manhandled her and dragged her onto her lawn where she was forced to watch a cross burned.

* * *

ONE OF THEM, Pete Howton, Labuco, Ala., was on the stand yesterday when court adjourned and resumed testifying this morning.

Howten said he was one of 30 men at the June 10 meeting of the Stonewall Jackson Klavern of the Federated Ku Klux Klan.

He told of leaving the Klan meeting and going to a Brookside cafe where a cross was burned, and from there to Mrs. McDanal's home.

Deupty Solicitor Deason read about 30 questions and answers, given by Howten before the Grand Jury, which delved into night-riding activities. But Howton said he couldn't remember anything he said before the Grand Jury.

HE SAID HE "could not remember" telling the Grand Jury that Richard Lollar, brother of the defendant, was exalted cyclops that night.

All he could remember was that Klansmen passed the word along at the meeting that "we were going out."

Deason read Howten this question and answer from the Grand Jury testimony: "How about Brownie Lollar?"

"I saw him inside the door, yes, sir."

Howten said he couldn't remember saying that before the Grand Jury. He also said he couldn't remember telling the Grand Jury that H. M. (Preacher) Black was at the session.

When Howten stepped down,

Houston Guthrie, bondsman, took the stand. He testified he was talking by phone to Mrs. McDanal when the raid took place. He said he heard a "commotion" and "racket" and talking before someone hung up the phone. He said he called back a few minutes later, but a man answered and told him not to ring the phone again.

Witnesses Deny Lollar On Raid

Saw Ball Game, Praco Men Say Under Questioning

Three Praco men testified today they were with Coleman A. (Brownie) Lollar at a Birmingham baseball game the night Mrs. Hugh McDanal was flogged.

When the three concluded testimony early this afternoon, Lollar's attorneys indicated the case may go to the jury late today.

J. W. Chance, Jr., said he and Lollar went to a ball game in Birmangham the night of June 10. The state has charged Lollar was one of a hooded, robed band which flogged Mrs. McDanal that night.

Witnesses have testified the incident took place about 10 p.m. According to Chance, that was about the time the game ended.

Chance admitted he was a member of the Robert E. Lee Klan in Birmingham. He said he quit last December. Under cross examination he admitted being at an Adamsville Klan meeting the night of June 17. He said he went there to see Lollar, but did not go inside.

THAT WAS THE night state investigators came across numerous cars with their tags covered by newspapers. Chance testified he covered only his own license tag and claimed Lollar covered the rest.

The witness said he could not remember how long before that night it was, "but he told me he was guarding cars at the Klan hall . . . he told me the Klan met over there Friday nights."

His brother, Lewis Chance, Jr., Praco, corroborated the testimony about the ball game.

Melvin Collier, Praco, said he sat with the Chance brothers and Lollar at the ball game and took Lollar directly home in his car. He testified they passed the McDanal home on the way and saw nothing unusual there.

J. E. Wood, who lives in a house about 20 yards from Mrs. McDanal's place, told of watching hooded and robed men set up a cross on her front yard lawn. He saw Mrs. McDanal led from her home by hooded men.

Wood testified he made no report of the incident to officers. He told the court Mrs. McDanal's general reputation was "bad" and he thought the burning cross was "pretty."

Jefferson County Deputy Sheriff Earl Cooper testified he made only a 15-minute investigation at Mrs. McDanal's house. He was called as a defense witness, and on direct examination said Mrs. McDanal told him she could not recognize anyone and did not mention raising the hoods of any robed men who invaded her home.

BUT ON CROSS-EXAMINATION the deputy said on the official report it was stated Mrs. McDanel did not then know any of the invaders "and not that she could not identify them."

"You mean to tell me," Deputy Solicitor Cecil Deason said, "that she told you the window was broken out, she was mandandled, four or five men broke in, her gun was stolen, and you didn't do more than stay about 15 minutes. What kind of an investigation did you make of this case?"

Cooper said he tried to find out if she knew the names of any of the invaders, and a deputy with him made a report that was turned over to the sheriff's office the next morning. He said he did not go to the house next door to investigate, and made no further investigation. He said he did not call any of the three of 45 to county deputies who know how to take fingerprints.

C. W. Gafford, Praco, called as a character witness for Lollar, testified under cross-examination that he visited Deason at the solicitor's office and discussed the flogging cases with him. He denied, however, telling Deason that Lollar was one of the men involved in night riding activities.

The long string of defense witnesses have been parading to the stand to help Lollar prove he is innocent of the charge of flogging while masked.

To do this, they must overcome testimony that the laugh of a robed man in the midst of a flogging was that of Lollar, ex-special deputy.

Three state witnesses have testified they recognized Lollar's voice, although his face was covered. He was placed by state witnesses at the scene of 14 different floggings.

By 11:30 this morning, 19 persons had taken the stand to testify to Lollar's good character. Another 13 attacked the credibility and character of Mrs. McDanal.

Lollar is the first of 18 men to be tried following indictments by the Grand Jury after an investigation of hooded and robed night violence in West Jefferson.

* * *

THE STATE ENDED its direct testimony yesterday afternoon, except for one man. When the decision was announced by Deason, Lollar smiled broadly and told reporters:

"Now its my turn at bat."

Before the defense took over, the state had testimony from Mrs. McDanal, 42-year-old grandmother, that she lifted a hood from the face of four men who invaded her home, struck her twice and forced her to watch a cross burning. She identified Lollar as one of them.

Three other identifications of Lollar were in other night riding incidents, and all were by voice.

Sally Burton, 17, said she "recognized Brownie Lollar's voice" when robed men took six persons from her home at Dora the night of June 3. Her mother, Mrs. Irene Burton, and two men were whipped, she said.

William Stevens testified he "heard Brownie Lollar laugh" after he had been whipped the night of May 19 in Pumpkin Center.

Mrs. Albert Sanders, whipped the night of April 22 along with three other persons, said she knew Lollar's voice when he called to her to come out of the house.

Jack Alexander, one of those flogged with Stevens, testified yesterday he was severely bruised by the beating and was forced to walk about five miles barefoot to get home that night.

Alexander also testified a letter received by his mother contained a note and a $10 bill.

The letter had, as a return address, Box 225, Praco, Ala.

MRS. VERA COLLIER, postmaster at Praco, was called to the stand but refused to divulge the owner of the box. She cited postal regulations to back her up. But after Lollar conceded it was his box, Mrs. Collier told the defense attorney Lollar was the only one who used it.

The letter, introduced as evidence by Deason, said:

"We are sending you $10 for damages to your door. What ever is left out of the money after you fix the door please take it and buy you something for yourself. Don't give this money to Jack for if you do we will no it. We are sorry this had to be done but it has went on so long till it had to be stopped. He wasn't hurt but if we haft to come back he will remember it for a long time. Please help us to stop all of this. He will be watched every day.

"God bless you."

The state's final witness yesterday was G. W. Reid, West Jefferson merchant. He said he saw a number of hooded and robed men walking around Mrs. Alexander's home the night of May 19.

He said that after the men left he went to the house to see if Mrs. Alexander was all right. He testified he saw a panel of the door had been splintered.

Mr. Reid said he talked with Lollar the day after the raid. "We talked some about the raid,' he said. Lollar asked me what damage was done to Mrs. Alexander's door. I told him. He said he didn't believe in that sort of thing. He said if he could find out who did it, he'd make them pay for it."

Pete Howton, one of the two state witnesses who admitted they were members of the Adamsville Ku Klux Klan Klavern, was called back to the stand by Deason. He was shown a Ku Klux Klan robe and hood and said they were similar to the ones he wore.

THE WHITE SHEET and hood were introduced as a state exhibit.

Earlier Howton testified the June 10 raid on Mrs. McDanal's home started from a Klan meeting in Adamsville.

After questioning Howton, Defense Atty. George Rogers immediately started calling character witnesses who testified to the "good" general reputation of Lollar.

Other character witnesses this morning included H. J. Hagar, Birmingham, Route 2; Frank Immler, 1233 South 22nd Street; Henry Bennett, Quintown, and Graysville Police Chief Sanford Howton.

Howton testified that Lollar's general reputation was "good." Under cross examination, he said he had never seen the Klan riding at night in Graysville or anyone with robes on.

COURTROOM DRAMA—R. J. Sexton (center above) was pointed out in Circuit Court today as a member of a hooded, robed band which flogged several persons last Spring. Sexton, ordered to leave the courtroom, was involved in an altercation with the mother of the girl who identified him. Sexton's wife and baby are shown at left. Chief Deputy Sheriff Wilton Hogan is at right.

Pistol Returned After Permit Is Displayed

State Men Patrol Court After Fight

Breaks Out Earlier

Uniformed Highway Patrol officers and a reinforced contingent of deputy sheriffs policed the halls outside Circuit Judge Robert J. Wheeler's courtroom as the trial of the first of 48 flogging cases reconvened at 2 p.m.

The precaution was taken after a tense situation had developed in the halls before the noon recess and one witness had been slapped by R. J. Sexton.

Mrs. Irene Burton, was struck by Sexton after Mrs. Burton's daughter, Sallie M., had identified Sexton in the crowd as a member of the robed mob which flogged her, her mother, a sister and three men in June.

State investigators, who worked on the probe of mob terrorism, this morning took a .38-caliber pistol off a man identified as T. V. Weaver.

Weaver has been identified as an officer in the Robert E. Lee Klavern of the Ku Klux Klan.

* * *

THE INVESTIGATORS said they returned the gun to Weaver after he had displayed a pistol permit.

Solicitor Emmett Perry said he has requested the sheriff's office to revoke Weaver's permit if he has one.

Perry said that he would ask that all other persons who are found to be carrying guns with permits lose those permits.

Judge Wheeler once this morning ordered deputies to clear the halls to prevent further outbreak of trouble.

This action was taken after Mrs. Burton had been slapped and newsmen and photographers had been threatened by members of the crowd outside the courtroom.

Sexton, shortly after he had slapped Mrs. Burton, threatened a photographer and declared, "I will stomp you into the floor." The photographer had made no attempt to make a picture of Sexton at that time.

As court recessed for noon, an angry crowd in the hall gathered around another photographer after he had snapped a picture of Mrs. Burton.

* * *

JUDGE WHEELER said he intended to see that order is kept inside the courtroom and outside in the halls throughout remainder of the trials.

Only two deputies were on duty when the trial opened this morning. At the time court reconvened at 2 p.m. Sheriff McDowell had assigned seven deputies to the halls and courtroom.

Ex-Klansman Acquitted in Flogging Case

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—(AP)—A self-identified ex-Klansman was acquitted of masked flogging.

The jury's verdict freeing Coleman A. (Brownie) Lollar was greeted with loud applause by courtroom spectators.

LOLLAR, FORMER special sheriff's deputy, was accused by the State of participating with other robed and masked men in the manhandling of Mrs. Hugh McDanal, June 10.

The State said the band broke into Mrs. McDanal's home and forced her to watch a cross-burning.

Mrs. McDanal testified her attackers accused her of "selling whisky and renting rooms to couples."

Lollar was the first of 18 men to be tried on flogging and related charges. All were indicted after an outbreak of floggings and cross burnings, most in the hill country west of Birmingham.

Flogging Trial Date To Be Set

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., Oct. 30—(AP)—The trial for the second of 18 men accused of masked flogging and related charges will be set tomorrow.

The first tried, Coleman A. (Brownie) Lollar, was acquitted yesterday on a flogging charge. He still faces the same charge in four other cases, however.

Although there had been no official word, court attaches said they believed the next flogging case would be set for either Nov. 7 or Nov. 14.

State investigators charged the Ku Klux Klan and its members with responsibility for the series of floggings and cross-burnings. The Klan denied this.

Girl Spots Suspect at Flogging Trial

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—(AP)—A girl victim of masked mobsters halted her testimony in a flogging trial to point out a court spectator as a member of the band which raided her home.

Sally Burton, 17, made the identification during the trial of Coleman Lollar, former deputy sheriff.

THE MAN SHE identified was R. J. Sexton. He then was sent out of the courtroom as a prospective witness.

A few minutes later, Sexton was back for a contempt of court hearing. Miles Denham, reporter for the Birmingham Age-Herald, testified Sexton slapped Mrs. Irene Burton, mother of Sally, in the witness room.

Judge Robert J. Wheeler sentenced Sexton to 24 hours in jail for contempt. The sentence was stricken when Sexton wept and apologized.

Miss Burton has testified she recognized Lollar's voice in the mob which came to her home at Dora last June 3. The invaders took six people from the home into the woods and whipped three of them.

Ex-Klansman Freed In Flogging Case

Birmingham, Ala., Oct. 29 (AP). A self-identified ex-Klansman today was acquitted of masked flogging.

The jury's verdict freeing Coleman A. (Brownie) Lollar was greeted with loud applause by courtroom spectators.

Lollar, former special sheriff's deputy, was accused of participating with other robed and masked men in the manhandling of Mrs. Hugh McDanal June 10.

The State said the band broke into Mrs. McDanal's home and forced her to watch a cross-burning.

Mrs. McDanal testified her attackers accused her of "selling whisky and renting rooms to couples."

Just before the jury retired for its brief deliberation—less than an hour—Solicitor Emmett Perry (prosecutor) urged a guilty verdict.

"Tell this man with a lash," demanded Perry, "that he is not above the law."

Immediately after the verdict was announced Lollar was surrounded by friends who hugged him and pounded him on the shoulders.

Lollar was the first of 18 men to be tried on flogging and related charges. All were indicted after an outbreak of floggings and cross burnings near Birmingham.

Threats Stop Defender Reporter's Probe Of Klan Floggings In Dixie

Defender. Sat. 7-9-49

By JOHN LE FLORE

BIRMINGHAM—A Chicago Defender reporter, en route to Ashland, Ala., 90 miles southwest of here, to investigate a series of Ku Klux Klan floggings, was stopped here by warnings from a public official and white friends "to steer clear of Ashland until things calm down."

Some of the warnings came from white persons in Ashland who had promised the reporter cooperation in making his investigations.

The acute tenseness of the situation centered around the sensational expose of mass floggings and other brutal acts of violence recently imposed on whites and Negroes. Ruthless night riders, dressed in the masks and robes of the KKK, have caused a reign of terror in the Ashland area.

The spotlight was thrown on these conditions in Clay County last week by two God-fearing Methodist white ministers, Rev. F. Frank Ledford, of Ashland, and Rev. Luther Brown, of Millerville.

The clergymen believe they discovered at a lonely spot the "whipping grounds" in an abandoned graphite mine where the lawless, masked gangsters have reportedly flogged between 25 and 30 victims in recent weeks.

Six victims — three white and three Negro—have already told state law enforcement officers their stories of cruel punishment inflicted upon them.

The Negro victims include John Henry McCellers, father of six children, who said he was beaten senseless by hooded men. He said they accused him of "running around with a woman other than his wife."

Exposed on Saturday by the Methodist ministers were the floggings of 33-year-old Willie Horton, cafe owner and World War II hero who wore five battle stars, a presidential citation, the purple heart and a good conduct medal, and that of his brother, Olin.

They were lured away from their homes by men posing as officers, forced into a car, and brutally beaten with hickory sticks, blackjacks, and a pistol barrel. Both suffered head and internal injuries.

It was said Willie Horton, who has sold his business and moved away, was beaten because he couldn't produce information regarding another Negro. Olin was beaten, reportedly, because of carnal knowledge of a girl.

Two of the three white men were beaten for "believing in civil rights." One of them, Jack Alexander, is a tubercular.

A white herb doctor, J. J. Gavins, was lured from his home on the pretext that a "sick woman" needed his services. His flogging was revealed at the same time the Hortons' story was told.

Because of the tension in the Ashland area, a hotbed of Klan activity, the Defender reporter was warned to keep away until calm is restored.

Several ministers of the area have signed a resolution deploring mob violence. A blow against the Klan and other hooded gangs was delivered Tuesday when the house approved a senate anti-masking measure by an 84 to 4 vote. Gov. Jim Folsom immediately signed the bill.

Freed In Klan Flogging Case

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—A former law enforcement officer who admitted having been a member of the Ku Klux Klan was cleared of a charge of participating in a flogging by a band of hooded men last June.

He is Coleman A. Lollar, who was identified by Mrs. Hugh McDanal, 42-year-old grandmother and rooming house keeper, as one of the men who flogged her.

Lollar still faces six other indictments on similar charges. Both Lollar and Mrs. McDanal are white.

Kluxer's Jury Is Deadlocked

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., Dec. 10—(AP)—An Alabama jury failed to agree tonight on the guilt or innocence of a Ku Klux Klan leader accused of wielding the lash on masked mob victims.

After five hours deliberation the jury was locked up for the night. It will resume its study of the case at 9:15 a.m., tomorrow.

The jury reported a deadlock earlier, but Judge Alta King said he would keep them through the night, at least.

Sat. 12-11-49

The case went to the jury at 12:42 p.m., after more than 50 witnesses were heard.

The man on trial is A. B. Carradine, a 40-year-old mechanic who admitted he was the membership investigator at the Stonewall Jackson Klavern at the nearby mining village of Adamsville.

Carradine was one of 18 men indicted after a wave of floggings and cross burnings here last Spring. One other has been tried. In that case, Coleman A. (Brownie) Lollar was acquitted.

The state contended that Carradine flogged three persons the night of May 19 and three others in April. He was tried only on a charge of whipping Jack Alexander that May night.

For An End To Mob Action

When the State Senate finally got around to the matter late Friday, after involved dealing with a filibuster and other delays, it passed with a resounding 23 to 3 vote the bill outlawing the wearing of masks in public except during Mardi Gras and similar innocent festivities. Although it did not yield to Gov. Folsom's request to put the legislation above all else, it left no doubt about where it stood.

And thus new progress is made toward ending the lawless outrages which have shaken this state in recent weeks. It is to be hoped that the House of Representatives will act with dispatch when it meets again Tuesday.

Passage of such a measure, helpful as it will be, is only one needed step in the situation. The basic need is for prompt and effective law enforcement measures on all mob actions, masked or unmasked.

And there is urgent need, as last night's developments showed, for steps to end covering of automobile license plates, in open defiance of the law. Any organization guilty of such practices deserves no protection under the law.

News Sat. 6-18-49

In addition to passage of the anti-masking bill, the state should continue with steps to revoke the charter under which the Klan operates in this state and to make any hooded organization illegal.

Folsom Gets Action

He Moves Swiftly To End Mob Rule, Unmasking Bill May Soon Be Law

BY FRED TAYLOR

MONTGOMERY, Ala., June 18—All Alabamians who stand for law and order—and a great majority do—should applaud Gov. Folsom for his forceful steps to stop hoodlum terror in this state.

Approbation is due the Alabama Senate for whamming the Mize anti-masking bill through to 23 to 3 passage, once its members were able to untangle themselves temporarily from the bitter prolonged battle to curb state spending.

FRED TAYLOR

This bill is certain to win House passage by an equally lopsided majority. The rising tide of public opinion demands that reckless acts of lawlessness and hooded outrages be stopped.

But Alabamians shouldn't lose sight of the fact that their legislators are waging another fight—and a successful one, too—for something else of tremendous importance to them. Senators and representatives are battling to preserve the state's financial integrity—to stop reckless spending.

Economy measures big majorities of both houses favor and are seeking to place on the statute books will stop leaks and correct weaknesses in the state's financial structure. They will insure that neither this nor any future administration will be able to slosh huge sums through the extravagance drain.

FOLSOM GETS ON BALL—But aside from the vital fight between Gov. Folsom and economy forces, the governor got on the ball in a forceful crackdown on the hooded hellions.

He should have acted sooner. There is tremendous power vested in the governor's office. It can be used with much greater force and effectiveness than Folsom has exerted.

But it must be remembered that the governor's position, because of many things, has been greatly weakened. He has been inept and bumbling in his dealings with the Senate and House because he lacks legislative know-how.

Of course, there is the wide gulf between the executive and legislative branches over a fiscal program. No one, not even the governor, ever thought his fantastic $59,000,000 annual tax-boosting program had the slightest chance of enactment.

The governor has, in short, failed to submit any sort of legislative program possible of accomplishment.

However, with public sentiment welling up in a statewide cry for action to halt hooded atrocities, Folsom moved speedily.

He sent a ringing message to the Legislature calling on it to enact an anti-masking law so "Alabama can tell the world she will not tolerate acts of lawlessness."

He directed Atty. Gen. A. A. Carmichael to move against hooded orders in the courts. The governor asked that their charters be revoked.

He personally went to the Senate chamber and sought to effect a truce between warring factions long enough to get the Mize bill passed.

And he prepared to issue a proclamation to all law enforcement officers in the state bolstering them in concerted action against mob violence.

* * *

BECK CALLS FOR ACTION—Speaker Bill Beck called for prompt action to put an end to hooded outrages and mob violence.

"I feel the House will act very promptly on this bill," said the speaker, who presides over the House. "We've got to stop mob violence and maintain law and order in our state."

It will be recalled that Speaker Beck promptly denounced such outrages in a speech in Birmingham after hooded and robed men marched on a Girl Scout camp in Jefferson County.

* * *

PASSAGE IN WEEK—It requires a minimum of five legislative days to pass a bill. With the Legislature operating on its present schedule—meeting on Tuesdays and Fridays, with committee work in between—the Mize anti-masking bill could not be passed by the House before one week from Tuesday.

The Senate-approved proposal, sponsored by Tuscaloosa Sen. Henry H. (Beanie) Mize, will get its first House reading Tuesday, be referred to a committee and acted on either Wednesday or Thursday.

If reported out of committee, which undoubtedly it will be, the measure would get its second reading in the House Friday and then go on the calendar for floor consideration the following Tuesday.

After this, the bill still must be brought up for passage that day.

Another anti-masking measure identical to the Mize bill was introduced in the House Friday. Its sponsors are Tuscaloosa Rep. A. K. (Temo) Callahan, Shelby Rep. Frank Head, Morgan Rep. Bill Stewart and Jackson Reps. John Snodgrass and John O'Neal.

* * *

COMPROMISE ON S. B. No. 1—Speaker Beck and members of the House rules committee, of which he is chairman, have been sharply criticized for keeping Senate Bill No. 1 shelved in committee for several weeks.

But this measure, aimed at divorcing legislators from the state payroll and preventing them from receiving other patronage, is expected to be given the green light Tuesday. That is, a substitute bill will get the committee's nod.

Speaker Beck, Limestone Sen. Dave Patton, its sponsor, and Morgan Rep. Norman Harris, reportedly have agreed on a compromise proposal. It meets objections raised by House members, who actually would have been discriminated against in favor of senators in the form the measure came over from the Senate.

The substitute compromise would still block senators or representatives from holding state jobs or receiving other patronage while members of the Legislature.

But it would permit legislators to receive National Guard pay while on full-time active duty, for drill and for service during any emergency. The original bill would have permitted senators to receive such pay, but would have blocked House members from getting it.

REMOVES BAN ON ATTORNEYS—Written into the substitute is a section removing a prohibition against legislators who are attorneys representing clients before state boards and commissions.

But such attorney lawmakers still would be prevented from representing the state or any of its agencies in any capacity.

Senate Bill No. 2, also sponsored by Patton and approved by the upper chamber, likewise has been pigeon-holed in the House rules committee.

It would prohibit House and Senate members from serving on state boards and commissions—a ban many, including a large number of legislators, feel goes too far. A number of lawmakers now serve on such boards. And senators and representatives have served on them down through the years.

A good guess is this bill will stay shelved.

South Hits At Klan Violence

Special to Journal and Guide

MONTGOMERY, Ala.—Giving impetus to the South's move on several fronts last week to curb the Ku Klux Klan, and to check violence by masked, hooded night riders, the Alabama Senate by a vote of 23 to 3 passed a bill forbidding the wearing of masks in public Saturday, at the urgent demand of Governor James E. Folsom.

Meantime, the governor has mobilized all state law enforcement agencies in an all-out attempt to halt hooded terrorism.

The governor told a news conference late Friday that he has asked Attorney General A. A. Carmichael to begin immediate legal action designed to revoke the charters any hooded organization incorporated under state law.

Gov. Folsom said he has issued officers so that they will be ready to rush to the assistance of local authorities at a moment's notice.

INDIGNATION SPREADS

Indignation over recent klan outrages has spread to Georgia and Mississippi also.

In Atlanta, in a blistering attack on "hooded mobsters" who have become self-appointed judges, jurors and executioners, Judge J. M. C. "Red" Townsend, of the Georgia Court of Appeals, Tuesday, June 14, warned Americans they were in danger of losing their liberty to the Ku Klux Klan.

The freedom which Americans bought and have kept "at a price almost unimaginable" is being threatened daily by "a man under a hood and a sheet," Judge Townsend declared in an address at the weekly luncheon meeting of the Civitan Club.

Judge Townsend cited specific recent cases throughout Georgia and neighboring states where Klansmen have taken it upon themsleves to "try a man behind closed doors and in his absence and then go out in their sheets and punish him by brutal beatings and in some cases death."

"When the Constitution of the United States was drawn up in 1789," he said, "there was fear among the American people that it did not protect the sovereign citizen from his government. That's why the first ten amendments, which we know as the Bill of Rights, were passed—to guarantee us against illegal search and seizure, against having troops quartered in our homes, against being tried and convicted twice for the same offense. Trial by jury is our right—and it is our right to be faced by accusers and to cross-examine them. Hooded mobsters are taking that right away from us."

LIBERTY IN JEOPARDY

Judge Townsend decried the "sadly misinformed" citizen who is willing to tolerate the Klan because "sometimes it whips somebody who needs it."

"Our liberty is in jeopardy," he said. "We are sleeping on the ramparts of liberty and guarding it jealously. We are forgetting the billions of gallons of blood that were spilled to buy it, the billions of dollars of money that were spent to buy it."

Judge Townsend cited the recent beatings of seven colored men in his native Dace county and said he knew two of the men were veterans of the North African and Italian campaigns in World War II.

"If an Italian had told these boys that such a thing could happen in Italy, they would have said, "In the United States it's different. When you get under the folds of Old Glory you're home free! They would have said it couldn't happen here," the speaker said on. "But it can happen here—it does happen here!"

Judge Townsend urged more outspoken opposition to the Klan and increased emphasis on the Bill of Rights in the elementary schools."

Voice Of The People

Are Hooded Men Law Abiding?

To the Editor:

I am very much concerned about the hooded men breaking in the home of Mrs. Hugh McDanal recently. The public, too, should be very much concerned over incidents of this kind. According to reports, these hooded men broke into the McDanal home after she closed and latched the door, took a gun away from her that she had for protection, searched her home without a search warrant, struck her on the head when she attempted to answer the phone, and dragged her out of her house and threatened to bomb it or burn it down if they heard anything else. According to these hooded men who dress like the Ku Klux, "they are the law," and seemingly they can invade the private rights of any citizen, threaten to bomb or burn homes and punish people in their own way without a fair trial or even hearing the other side. According to the laws of our land, this is not right and if these hooded hoodlums are gone unpunished after this incident, then no citizen has any private right to his property.

I thought there was a law against housebreaking and mistreating and abusing people, and I also thought a person had to have a search warrant to ransack a private home. If these robed men had been shot for breaking in, I wonder who'd

been in the right? If they want to better a community, why not enact laws that will do it and then help enforce them through the real law enforcement agency? If these men are doing right and helping their community, why then do they hide behind robes to do it? They shouldn't be ashamed and hide their identity if they are on the side of the law!

I hope the public will get behind such incidents as this and see that justice is done. I believe in law and order and in working with law enforcement officers to bring about justice, but I wonder if these hooded hoodlums are law abiding. I noticed the officials of the Ku Klux Klan deny having anything to do with this incident, so I'm thinking if their charter is sound and law-abiding as they claim, then they will work to put a stop to such outrageous acts as occurred at Westwood.

JAMES G. TAYLOR,
Chalkville, Ala.

Lawlessness On The March

The shocking news that a Birmingham man, regularly employed by a Birmingham industrial firm, was taken from his home by a hooded mob on Tuesday night and beaten brings closer to all our citizens the danger confronting this entire community. It is the latest episode in an appalling series of cowardly, lawless attacks on persons and property in this district.

B'ham News

Have you considered carefully what is happening in this community? Has it occurred to you that bullying tactics of masked men and lawless mobs are making the security of every one of us less certain than we, as law-abiding citizens, have a right to expect?

B'ham Ala

Here is the calendar of sickening events, with not one, single arrest made in any of the cases:

Thu 6-16-49

Almost two years ago someone, still unidentified, blew up a house newly built by Negro citizens after a decision by a federal judge gave them the right to live in it.

Just a year ago this month a band of hooded men invaded the private property of a Girl Scout camp and ordered workers to leave their jobs of instructing Negro Girl Scout leaders.

About two months ago three houses bought by Negroes were bombed.

Last Friday night a mob of hooded men broke a glass in the door of a private home, unlocked it by reaching inside, entered and terrorized a woman whose house it was.

On the same night the proprietor of a small restaurant in a western suburb was visited by a mob and threatened. He was told that "niggers" must be kept down and that the men were tired of having the community's affairs dominated by Catholics.

Early Monday morning of this week a mob of several hundred men visited a non-union coal mine 18 miles from Birmingham, beat up several men, including the owners, lashed a 15-year-old boy with a belt, confiscated some privately owned goods, and told the men their "guts would be blown out" if they reported the incident to newspapers or law enforcement officials.

On Tuesday workers in at least two other non-union mines were threatened.

Then came the outrageous action of taking a man out of his house and flogging him.

6-16-49

The piling up of these events makes an evil pattern. Such conditions must not be tolerated. The men sworn to uphold the law, backed by the united and indignant opinion of the public, must stop these outrages—and promptly. The community-wide demand is for positive, effective action to find and punish the criminals and to build up such a strong atmosphere of disgust and anger that misguided men dare not flout the law any further.

Let's not be either helpless or indifferent, but in the name of American liberty, let's not be both!

No Place For A Klansman

The public schools of the nation have one major function: the education of the young people of the community. The concept of American education extends beyond the simple act of imparting factual knowledge. It is designed to lead to good citizenship. That fact means that children in the schools are taught, as far as school authorities are able, to think for themselves that they may make judicious use of the information they acquire from study of books, from discussions of fact and theory, and from experimentation in the laboratories.

Part of the creed of good citizenship requires that all persons have frankly inquiring minds. To withhold knowledge of various forms of belief is not to provide the best sort of education. But the schools also seek to develop intelligently discriminating minds. Students ought to emerge from the process of formal education with a standard of values. It should certainly contain a respect for law, for the rights of others, and for the democratic system which has made this country the great free land it is.

Any organization which practices disregard for the American veneration of rule by established law is unworthy of emulation or trust. For that reason the Ku Klux Klan is un-American. This newspaper would not countenance the silencing of any man who represents a legally chartered organization, but it also insists that there is a vast inappropriateness in any invitation which would bring a Klan leader into a school building as a speaker. It agrees with the statement of County Superintendent of Schools Simmons that the schools strive to teach principles which the Klan habitually disregards. It matters little whether the speech espouses Klan ideas or not. Mr. Morris is so much a symbol for the Klan that he cannot appear in public without the association inevitably being made.

It is well that the incident of last Friday night be fully investigated by the county superintendent and by the board. It is true that Morris did not address the school children themselves, but he did speak before the parents and the teachers of the children and he spoke inside a school building. This paper believes that Mr. Morris should not be asked to take his brand of thinking into any of the schools of the community.

It is pleased to note that Superintendent Simmons has absolved the principal and the teachers of the blame of inviting Morris to speak.

News
Wed 9-28-49
B'ham Ala

Two Fined In Brutal Beating Near Berry

BY THOMAS F. HILL
News Staff Writer

FAYETTE, Ala., Aug. 2—The flogging and brutal beating of an 18-year-old farm youth near Berry July 13 today had resulted in two men being fined $100 and costs.

Charged with assault and battery with a weapon, two Berry men were found guilty yesterday in County Court here. A third man, Curt Espey, a taxi driver, was judged not guilty.

Fined were Leon Kimbrell, 34, a machine operator, and Vick Hudson, 33, a night watchman at a lumber company.

Sentence was passed by Judge J. C. McGough, after a hearing of approximately six hours.

The three men had been charged with flogging Aubrey Pinion, of Berry, after picking him up in a taxicab.

FIRST STATE WITNESS was Pinion. He displayed a piece of tree limb, which he said was used in the flogging. He also showed his blood-stained clothing.

Pinion testified that he approached Hudson and Kimbrell and they offered him a ride. He said he got in the car with them and they drove to a lonely spot.

He said the first inclination that something was "up" came when the car did not drive in the direction of his home. Then he said Hudson said, "These Ku Kluxers sure have been busy."

Pinion told the court he tried to get the men to let him out, but they refused. He said one of the men was armed with a pistol.

Defense Atty. C. M. Holder, in cross-examination, asked if it were not true that he actually had been beaten up earlier in the day in a fight with another man.

* * *

PINION DENIED this, but admitted he had 'tussled" with a man, but no blows had been struck.

Other state witnesses testified that they had seen Pinion immediately before he had gotten into the cab with the men, and that he was unmarked.

Pinion told the court the men forced him out of the car at a lonely spot. While one of the men held his wrists, the other cut a tree limb and beat him about the back, legs and head, he said.

Pinion said they drove him to another spot where he again was forced out.

"Leon hit me in the nose with his fist," Pinion told the court. "When Vick went to cut another switch, I broke away and ran."

* * *

PINION SAID the cab driver remained in the taxi while the flogging was taking place.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Gosa, who live near where the flogging took place, testified that Pinion came to their house for aid about 8 p.m. the night of the beating. They said his clothing was bloody and he had numerous bruises, knots and abrasions on his body. They said he had not been drinking.

Clyde Hocutt, Berry, told the court he overheard Hudson remark that they were going to "take Pinion out and whip him." He said this remark was made when Pinion rode by a group of men on a bicycle. He said someone asked Hudson why they were going to whip the youth, and Hudson replied: "We don't like his mustache."

Under direct and cross-examination, Kimbrell admitted beating Pinion "with a small switch." He told the court Pinion had "cursed" him.

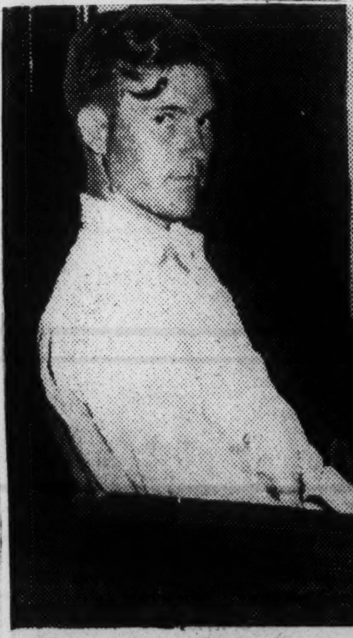
The Fayette County courtroom was packed as the trial opened.

The testimony moved slowly, and during the afternoon session, the spectators had thinned out considerably.

THERE WAS NO apparent "feeling" in the town about the case, although the case had been highlighted by charges by O. C. Morgan, Fayette newspaper man, that Sheriff Travis Lawrence "condoned" the flogging. In a Page 1 had threatened to "beat hell out of him" if he said anything more about him.

Morgan had called for a Grand Jury probe of the flogging and other conditions in the county.

Representing the state were W. W. Monroe, Fayette County solicitor, and Cecil Strawbridge, circuit solicitor.



TELLS OF BEATING—Aubrey Pinion (above), Berry farm youth, is shown telling the court of how he was flogged July 13 by two men.

Morris Says He May Take Late Dr. Green's Post

Klan Calls Parade For Pell City; Three Crosses Are Burned

Another night meeting of Alabama Klansmen is scheduled for Pell City tonight.

Last night a crowd estimated at 600 persons met in the Talladega County Courthouse and heard a white-haired Klan orator declare that the Klan is large enough in Alabama now to "unseat all the politicians fighting it."

No permit has been obtained for the scheduled Pell City meeting tonight, but Dr. Lycurgus Spinks, Klan speaker from Thomasville, said more than 1,000 Klansmen will march unmasked but in robes through that city tonight.

Three crosses were reported to have been burned in or near Gadsden last night.

One cross was burned near the top of the mountain near Gadsden, another was burned at Hooks Lake and a third was burned in East Gadsden, witnesses reported.

Witnesses said Ku Klux Klan literature was left at the scene of the three cross burnings.

* * *

THIS BURST of activity on the part of the Alabama Klan came as William Hugh Morris, Klan boss in Alabama, said he may replace the late Dr. Samuel Green of Georgia as the nation's No. 1 Klansman.

The 44-year-old Morris is now serving his 34th day in County Jail here for refusing to produce Klan membership records requested by the Grand Jury.

He told newsman yesterday he and Dr. Green had discussed a merger of their two organizations.

"We were very close to agreement in July," Morris said.

* * *

"THE TWO ORGANIZATIONS are quite similar," he continued. "The aims are the same, the ritual is the same, and the members of one organization are able to attend meetings of the other."

Morris said there is speculation that he may be named titular, if not actual, head of the nation's Klans. But, he added, he doesn't know for certain.

The Klan chieftain claims the Klan operates in more than 28 states and has a membership "of more than 1,000,000."

On the death of Dr. Green, imperial wizard of the Klan in Georgia, Morris said:

"It will be hard to replace him. We had worked well together."

He saiid he was sorry he couldn't attend funeral services for Dr. Green.

* * *

"I SEEM TO HAVE a previous engagement at the jail," Morris said.

Dr. Spinks, in addressing the Talladega meeting last night, described himself as "the fightingest buck private in the rear ranks of the Klan.

* * *

He said the Klan is responsible for the decline of lynchings in the nation. It is the "greatest protection against communism America has," he added.

He said Dr. Green's death was "a great loss" to Klansmen in America.

He claimed the bombing of two Negro ministers' homes in Birmingham last week was "a hoax put up by the Communists and the Negroes."

* * *

MEANWHILE, Hugh A. Locke, attorney for Klan Boss Morris, said he had come to no decision yet on what will be the next legal step in the fight to free Morris from County Jail.

Morris' latest appeal on the contempt citation was turned down Thursday by the Alabama Supreme Court.

Two Negroes Convicted Of Donning Klan Masks

By The United Press.

OZARK, Ala., Aug. 5—Two Negro youths today became the first persons to be convicted under Alabama's new law prohibiting the public wearing of masks.

Tommie Johnson, 19 years old, and Robert Miller, 21, received Recorder's Court sentences of six months and sixty days, respectively, for donning hoods and [illegible] to scare two Negro girls seen associating with white men.

The law provides a maximum sentence of one year in jail or a $500 fine.

Johnson and Miller were two of six Negroes charged with forming a "Ku Klux Klavern" to frighten the Negro girls out of seeing the white men again. A third Negro, Raymond McClendon, 20, free on $100 bond, faces trial tomorrow. The three admitted guilt. A fourth youth was turned over to juvenile authorities and the other two have not been caught.

Defy Klan to Erect 2nd Radio Tower

Vandals Wreck First $5,000 Structure

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—Violence struck here again July 28, when the 210-foot tower of a white-financed all-colored personnel radio station was wrecked.

J. Ed. Reynolds, president of the Magic City Broadcasting Company, said that the station which was to be designated WEDR, was scheduled to begin operation Aug. 14, but would be delayed two weeks.

A new tower has been ordered and guards will be stationed around the station when the new tower is installed in defiance of the Ku Klux Klan.

Adam White, 33, maintenance man for the station, said that about 9 p.m., an automobile containing five white men drove to the radio station site. Two alighted, approached the tower while three stayed in the automobile.

The tower cable was cut with the tower falling within 10 seconds.

Valued at $5,000

The tower was valued at $5,000 and was described as a total loss. It is located on the rim of Birmingham in an all-colored community.

Reynolds, with 20 years experience in radio management, was formerly associated with radio station WJRD in Tuscaloosa, Ala.

He said that only non-controversial subjects such as education, music and church would be permitted on the station. N[illegible] [illegible]asts, racial and political di[illegible] [illegible]sions would be banned.

Not any of the colored business leaders seemed to know anything about the new radio station.

No motive could be established for the tower cable cutting.

Klansmen To Parade With Hoods Lifted

Birmingham, Aug. 18 (AP)—The Alabama Ku Klux Klan today announced its first public demonstration since passage of the State Antimasking Law will be held Saturday night.

A spokesman said hundreds of members of the secret order would parade in their white robes at Pell City, about 38 miles east of Birmingham. The Klansmen will march with hoods lifted in observance of the Antimask Law, the spokesman said.

Alabama Woman Relates Other Flog Victims

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. —(INS)— Mrs. Elizabeth Studdard, of Lynn Park, told newsmen in Birmingham Tuesday of four new floggings in Jefferson county.

Mrs. Studdard said she and her daughter, Opal, 21, and two men she identified as Albert Sanders and Auxford Spradlin, were whipped in April.

She told of the new whippings while waiting to testify before a special Jefferson County Grand Jury.

Meanwhile, in adjacent Clay county, authorities considered calling a special session of its Grand Jury to investigate reports of beatings and threats by hooded mobs in that county.

Two methodist ministers brought these to light last week after a private inquiry. They have since been threatened with beatings themselves.

Circuit Judge W. W. Wallace indicated he would confer with Clay …

...at Ashland Tuesday to make a decision regarding grand jury action.

KLAN SPOKESMAN SOUNDS OFF; YOUNGSTER DOZES. — Dr. Lycurgus Spinks (at right), who says he has been a Klansman for forty years, introduces Mrs. William Hugh Morris at an open meeting of 600 persons in Tarrant City, Ala., near Birmingham, Friday night. Mrs. Morris' husband, a top Klan official, was jailed for contempt after he refused to bring Klan records before a grand jury. Saturday night Morris was released from jail on $500 bond. At the meeting, Spinks threatened political retaliation for any official effort to link the secret order with night rider violence. At left, little Eddie McWilliams, 3-year-old son of J. T. McWilliams, sleeps in the seat by his daddy on the front row during the meeting. (AP Photos.)

Morris 'Thinks' He Knows Who Got Klan Data

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., July 24 —(AP)—Ku Klux Klan Chief William Hugh Morris said today he thinks he knows who burglarized "sacred" Klan records from his home—but he isn't talking. Not just now.

His home was ransacked Wednesday night while he was in the county jail on contempt of court charges, for refusing to produce the records.

He called the documents "sacred" and said he would let the jail "rot around me" before betraying the hooded order's secrets.

He tried to get out of jail by arguing the papers were stolen and he could not produce them. Turned down on this plea, he yesterday posted a $500 release bond set two weeks earlier.

Free for the first time in 16 days, Morris would not elaborate at the present on his suspicions in the record stealing.

His arrest came while grand jurors were digging into an orgy of night rider hoodlumism. Eighteen persons since have been indicted and arrested.

Klansmen denied any part in beating, threats and cross-burning leading to the indictments.

Morris said the order soon will have 100,000 members and they will vote "in a solid bloc."

New Project Attacked By Hoodlums

BIRMINGHAM — The destruction of a $5,000 steel tower erected here for a new all-Negro radio station was charged to the Ku Klux Klan, which for the past six months has been terrorizing both white and colored citizens of this state.

The tower, a 210-foot structure held in place by four steel cables, crashed into a mass of twisted wreckage when a group of five white men hacked through one of the cables under cover of darkness Saturday night.

Adam White, maintenance man, told police that the five men drove up to the tower, climbed out with axes and a crowbar, and cut the cable.

They drove away again after the tower had crashed to the ground. White stated that he did not attempt to stop them as all the men were armed.

J. Ed. Reynolds, president of the Magic City Broadcasting Co. which will operate the station, could give no reason for the act other than hate for the prospect of a successful Negro business venture.

He announced that a new tower had been ordered, and plans for opening the new station now include an armed guard to protect the property.

Other developments of the week in this klan-ridden area include, (1) a three-day deadline to Klan Chief William H. Morris to comply with the court order to produce the records of the klan membership in the state; and (2) the indictment of a Baptist minister, R. C. Lyons, for having participated in the klan flogging where he prayed for the victim's soul before he was lashed.

As another step in his fight to clean up the klan racket and restore law and order in the state, Gov. Folsom has asked for authority to establish an Alabama Bureau of investigation, with which to ferret out the leaders of the night-riders and floggers who have terrorized the state.

Text Of Klan Leader Morris Statement

Following is the text of a statement by William Hugh Morris, Birmingham Klan leader now in County Jail on a contempt of court citation:

The fact that I must apparently spend the rest of my life in jail having been determined by three men, I believe a statement on their background and recent activities is in order. The attitude of our attorney general toward the Ku Klux Klan is well known. He haveing often and at times rather loudly so stated his stand. He haveing joined the Klan at Brewton Ala in the early 1920s after being active for about 4 years he fell from Grace when it became apparent to him that there was no political reward awaiting his pleasure. Being fully aware of the small bore calibre of the man from close personal observation. It is understandable to me why he would take advantage of a series of alledged floggings to bring 4 of the States ace investigators to the scene and personally direct an intensive investigation that at first gave promise of being gratrefieingly successful. And no doubt would have been so had he not himself turned it into a glorified witch hunt for Klansmen. Of the 18 men indicted but not as yet convicted no more than three are Klansmen. And upon this flimsy excuse the Attorney General useing the prestige and authority of his high office did cause to be issued a duces tecum supenae to force me me as head of the Klan in Alabama to reveal the, oath of the Klan among other of its secrets including the name and address of every Klansman in the state of Alabama.

Later modified it to include the name and address of the members in Jefferson County. Yet according to his own statement he only suspected the members of one Klan of complicity in any of the alledged floggings. Any fair minded man who has ever joined any secret fraternal order in good faith whether it be exclusively Jewish Catholic or Protestant or a combination of any of them can understand my reluctance in revealing the secrets of the Klan whether they agree with its principals or not. Especially when one considers the circumstances surrounding the request.

I believe that no reasonable person can or will understand the attorney General's attitude in disregarding every vestige of Fraternal courtesy and every law of common decency and self respect in ordering and having installed under his personal supervision a dictaphone in the Adamsville Masonic Lodge and excusing this peeping tom tactic with the rather vague excuse that it would in some unexplained manner help in the law enforcement of this county.

I have now in my possession the dictaphone taken from the Adamsville Lodge and am prepared to prove its ownership any time the attorney General sees fit to challenge this statement. Mr. Emmett Perry who from the beginning of this investigation has been content to stand in the small shadow of the attorney General and has avidly grabbed at the small crumbs of publicity as they fell from the great man's table. By his own admission he joined the Klan upon the advice and while under the influence of older men. By that statement he openly admits his inability to act or think for himself and further proves the fact by haveing been the attorney General's flunkey in this investigation or persecution. I charge the Solicitor of Jefferson County and the attorney General of the state of Alabama of helping to create a situation that makes it impossible for me to satisfy a court order of July 7th 1949. The facts in the case are simply these, while in jail at the insistence of Mr. Carmichael & Mr. Perry my humble home at Mt. Olive was broken into ransacked and not only were the Klan records stolen but my business records as well.

Me being in jail I was not only unable to protect my home but I was powerless to prevent it being ransacked as well. Quick to take advantage of this situation the state called me back before the Grand Jury and without benefit of Council. The Solicitor aided by the Attorney General and his 2 assistants 4 attorneys in all bombarded me with questions so phrased and designed that my answers to them would not only tend to show my...

...bership of any person if that person was unwilling to admit membership. Therefore I say that under existing circumstances the telephone directory of Birmingham would in all probability be just as accurate as any other list of Klans-

...me when I say that any man belonging to any secret order would be able to disprove the membership of any imposter in his order but would be faced with a physical impossibility in proveing the mem-

...new list of membership is possible to complete with any degree of accuracy unless the members are completely willing and cooperative themselves. Any person with any knowledge of any secret Fraternal order of any kind will agree with

...do so but my unwilling-ly with the court order

...f the matter is that ...ow much power I or ...se has in this order no

...hen I might be able to acquire at this time.

Another person involved in this action has rather reluctantly admitted membership in the Klan.

"IMPERIAL EMPEROR" — White-haired, fiery-tongued Lycurgis Spinks, without mask, is shown as he was crowned "Imperial Emperor" of the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan yesterday. Six branches of the Klan merged in Montgomery, the Cradle of the Confederacy.

Spinks Now Chief Of New Klan Unit

An ambitious new union of Ku Klux Klansmen, claiming a membership of 265,000, was making a bid for national influence and Klan unity today.

Heading the new union, made when six branches of klanism merged in Montgomery yesterday, is Lycurgis Spinks, flowing-haired, fiery tongued orator from Thomasville, Ala.

The merger meeting was held in a Montgomery hotel, just a few blocks away from the historic state capital where Jefferson Davis took the oath of office as the first president of the Confederate States of America.

The organization will have its national headquarters in Montgomery.

* * *

THE MEETING came at a time when Federated Ku Klux Klan and Association of Georgia Klans were without effective leadership. These two big groups of Klansmen were not included in the new union.

And they were not represented at the meeting.

Dr. Samuel Green, former imperial wizard of the Georgia group, died last week. William Hugh Morris, titular head of the federated group in Alabama, has been in jail for more than a month.

The doors of the union were held open to these two groups.

Spinks, who was made "imperial emperor" of the union, said his group would "welcome all legitimate Klan groups."

BETWEEN 50 and 60 members of the six merged groups attended the meeting. All except Spinks, who recently called himself the "fightingest buck private in the rear ranks of the Klan," were masked and robed.

The new imperial emperor said the organization's membership came from Alabama, Mississippi, Tennessee, Missouri, Arkansas and Louisiana.

He listed the merged groups: Independent Klans, Seashore Klans, Osark Klans, Star Klans, River Valley Klans and Allied Klans.

Spinks, who ran for governor of Mississippi in 1946, served notice his new group immediately will begin a national organizational campaign.

* * *

IN KLAN-SPONSORED meetings in Alabama during the past few weeks, he has described himself as "a red hot orator, and patriot," an "organization man."

From his cell in Jefferson County Jail, where he is being held for contempt of court, Alabama Klan Director Morris called the new union "abortive."

He called the action "ill-considered" and said there is "no thought behind it."

Morris, who refused to turn over to a Jefferson County Grand Jury the Klan's roster to membership in this county, said the union came as a surprise to him.

He said he had seen Spinks a few days ago and he could not have told from the conversation Spinks planned such a move.

* * *

SPINKS, WHO SAYS he is a former Baptist minister and a psychologist, has made speeches in which he praised Morris and defended him for refusing to turn over the membership rosters.

There was no mention at the meeting yesterday of Alabama officials who in recent months have blamed the Klan for a series of hooded raids, cross burnings, threats and floggings. Eighteen men are under indictment in Jefferson County as a result of these acts.

Morris also denounced the new union as the "idea of one or two men," and said "it can't last."

The new group adopted a rule against the wearing of masks. Spinks has said in his many Klan speeches any klansman "worthy" of that title is not afraid to show his face.

One of the aims of the new Montgomery organization, the imperial the Klan in the 1920's to prohibit wearing of masks in public and it has continued in effect until this day.

Goodwyn said no member of the City Commission is acquainted with Dr. Lycurgus Spinks, leader of the K. K. K. group, and as far as he knows no invitation was extended the organization to locate its headquarters here.

The mayor said no city commissioner has any connection with the Spinks group or any other Klan organization.

Another Cross Burned Before Preacher's Home In Gardendale

A small crude cross was burned Sunday night in front of the Pinson home of the Rev. Otto Faile. He is pastor of the Pineywood Baptist Church at Gardendale.

The pastor's wife and Sheriff Holt McDowell told The News today it was the second cross burning at the home in 16 days. They believed the crosses were left by one man, and that no hooded bands are involved.

* * *

MRS. FAILE said the cross was found burning at her home Sunday night when the family returned from church services. She said the other cross was burned the night of July 28 while the family was asleep.

Sheriff McDowell said his deputies went to the Rev. Failes' home Sunday night and investigated.

Mrs. Faile said the deputies had promised to come back. She said she hopes they do "and put a stop to such foolishness."

The Rev. Faile is out of the county attending revival services.

Here's Order Against Morris

The court order remanding William Hugh Morris, Klan chief, to jail:

"This court, by order dated July 7, 1949, adjudged the defendant Hugh Morris, guilty of direct contempt of court. The Supreme Court of Alabama denied a petition for certiorari by said defendant to review said order and on July 26, 1949, handed down an extended opinion thereon. On July 23, 1949, the defendant, Hugh Morris, was released from confinement in the County Jail upon giving bond conditioned as follows:

"The condition of the above obligation is such that the said Hugh Morris is admitted to bail in the sum of five hundred dollars ($500) conditioned upon his appearance before the Grand Jury to be organized July 11, 1949, then and there to give evidence and the truth to speak in said cause in all respects, as required by the court on July 7, 1949, and ... 1949, in open court, when the defendant was by the court adjudged in direct contempt of court.

* * *

"NOW IF THE said Hugh Morris shall appear and abide by the conditions as heretofore set forth then the obligation to be null and void, otherwise to remain in full force and effect."

"On Thursday, July 28, 1949, the defendant, Hugh Morris, appeared as a witness before said Grand Jury then in session in the courthouse in the City of Birmingham, and was then and there asked to produce the information list and rosters, as required by the order of the court on July 7, before said, and did fail to produce the same. The solicitor of Jefferson County, Alabama, Hon. Emmett Perry, the Grand Jury aforesaid and Hugh Morris came into the courtroom and the testimony of the defendant, Hugh Morris, that day given to the Grand Jury was read by the Grand Jury reporter to the court. During this reading the Grand Jury returned to the jury room. Time for adjournment having been reached the court adjoined until Friday, July 29, at 9:30 a.m. When court reconvened July 29 counsel for the defendant requested a continuance until Monday, Aug. 1, assigning two grounds therefore. This court granted said motion and the hearing was continued to Aug. 1, 1949.

* * *

"ON AUGUST 1, 1949 the defendant offered evidence for the purpose of showing he was unable to produce the information, lists and rosters as ordered by the court on July 7.

"The state offered evidence for the purpose of disproving the loss of the said information, lists and rosters aforesaid in the alleged burglary.

On this August 2, 1949 the solicitor of Jefferson County, the Grand Jury and the defendant, Hugh Morris, appeared in open court. The defendant Morris was then and there in open court asked by the court if he was ready to produce the information, lists and rosters and to purge himself of the contempt heretofore adjudged against him and perform the conditions of said bond.

"The defendant did not produce said information, lists and rosters, but offered evidence for the purpose of showing that he was unable to produce them.

* * *

"THE EVIDENCE offered by the defendant does not reasonably satisfy this court that he is unable to comply with said order of July 7 and it is hereby ordered, adjudged and decreed that the said Hugh Morris has failed to purge himself of the contempt adjudged against him on July 7, 1949 and has failed to perform the condition of the bond aforesaid, and Hugh Morris is accordingly hereby remanded to jail in accordance with the terms and conditions of the order of the court of July 7, 1949, with the right hereafter to purge himself before the present Grand Jury or any Grand Jury hereafter organized in Jefferson County and the aforesaid bond is hereby declared forfeited and judgment is hereby rendered thereon in favor of the state of Alabama and against the said Hugh Morris as principle and Arnold Fuqua and E. H. Swantes, by T. H. Guthrie, attorney in fact, as sureties, five hundred dollars ($500), for which let execution issue.

Signed George Lewis Bailes, Judge, Circuit Court, 10th Judicial Circuit of Alabama.

Locke Contends Lower Court Erred On Forfeit

Justice Brown Rules

Petition To Be Heard On Its Own Merits

MONTGOMERY, Ala., Aug. 17—(AP)—The State Supreme Court was asked today to void a Jefferson Circuit Court order sending Klan Leader Hugh Morris back to jail.

His attorney, Hugh A. Locke, contended the lower court had no right to forfeit Morris' bond and recommit him to jail under a previous contempt order. Earlier the state attempted to have the defendant's petition for review thrown out of court because of technical flaws.

Asst. Atty. Gen. Taylor Hardin pointed out that the 147-page document contained nearly all of the records of the case and did not comply with the law.

He quoted from a statute which says such petitions must be as "brief and succinct" as possible to bring out the essential facts.

Hardin contended Locke was at-

tempting in effect to appeal from the lower court's ruling without observing the usual processes of appeal.

THE FIVE justices hearing the case recessed briefly for a conference on Hardin's motion to strike the petition. They returned a few minutes later to announce it had been overruled.

Presiding Justice Joel B. Brown said the petition would be heard on its merits.

The Ku Klux Klan leader has been behind bars 31 days since he was originally sentenced for failure to produce membership records of the hooded order.

Morris was ordered back to jail Aug. 2 following a hearing before Circuit Judge George Lewis Bailes in Birmingham. At that time he said the membership records were stolen during his first 16-day stay in jail and that it would be impossible to produce them.

His attorney said the K. K. K. chieftain had not refused to produce them but to the contrary, said he would do everything possible to do so.

* * *

THE STATE SUPREME COURT in a 4 to 2 decision refused last month to review the original lower court order under which Morris was jailed.

and will be on the calendar in the upper chamber Friday. Because there are so many bills ahead of it, however, it will take virtually unanimous consent to pass it this session.

The House and Senate were in recess today and committee activity was light.

The Senate municipalities committee gave favorable report to a bill which would legalize pinball machines. They are illegal now in Alabama although the State Revenue Department licenses them.

The Senate finance and taxation committee sent out without recommendation a House-approved bill to appropriate $10,000 to restore Fort Morgan in Baldwin County. A legislative committee which visited the fort said it is run down and badly in need of repair.

* * *

MEMBERS OF THE Senate not in session today were looking forward to another battle on the general appropriations bill Friday. The Senate tossed the House-approved measure by the wayside and will write its own.

Taking up the big money bill late yesterday after more than six hours of filibustering tactics and other delays, the upper chamber voted to adopt a finance and taxation committee substitute as the one to work on.

* * *

AN ATTEMPT to get the House-approved measure up for consideration failed by an 18-12 vote. It calls for a 10 per cent across-the-board cut below present appropriations. The Senate bill totals about the same, nearly $18,600,000 a year, but divides the money differently.

The Senate barely got the bill up before quitting yesterday and not even one item was voted on. A flock of amendments will be offered when work is resumed Friday.

Sens. Paul Hooton, of Randolph County, and Guy Hardwick, of Houston, led the fight against the committee substitute, saying that it cut some departments so deeply that they would be unable to operate. They said it would be easier to take up the House bill and amend than to throw it out the window and start on an entirely new bill.

Among the non-controversial measures passed were bills to raise the salary of the attorney general from $5,700 a year to $7,500 and to permit the assistant commissioner of revenue to act when the commissioner is out of town.

Both the Senate and House approved a conference committee report on a bill to make absentee voters cast their ballots in person. It must be marked in the presence of the county register not more than 20 days nor later than five days before the election is to be held.

Service men are exempt from the bill and can still mail in their ballots as long as they were marked in the presence of the service man's commanding officer.

A constitutional amendment to raise the corporation income tax from 3 to 5 per cent and a companion bill to apply a sliding scale were both killed in the House.

* * *

THE AMENDMENT failed when it could get only 32 votes, half the three-fifths majority. It was up for a second vote, having been beaten already before the House voted to reconsider. The companion bill was indefinitely postponed after the amendment lost its vote.

By a 45-15 vote the House passed a bill by Rep. Luther Ingalls, Montgomery, to prohibit self service gasoline stations in Alabama.

Ingalls said they would create a fire hazard as usually no one is around except a girl to make change. The stations have become increasingly popular in the North and West, he said.

Another bill by Ingalls to put more safeguards around insurance companies operating in the state cleared the House. The bill would make it hard for out-of state firms not qualified under Alabama law to sell policies in the state by mail and would provide that policy holders not have to go outside of the state to obtain a judgment against the companies.

A proposed constitutional amendment by Rep. Earl McGowin, Butler County, to make the superintendent of education an appointive job instead of elective failed to pass the House by 14 votes. However, it was put back on the calendar for reconsideration.

A similar bill to make Board of Eduction members elective was killed several weeks ago by the House education committee.

* * *

ANOTHER OF McGOWIN'S bills, to make the appointment of the state highway director subject to Senate confirmation effective at the beginning of the next administration, passed the House.

McGowin said the highway director is authorized to spend between $40,000,000 and $50,000,000 and should be responsible to somone other than the governor. He said the director now could spend all the money in one county if he wanted to.

A proposed amendment to the U. S. Constitution to prohibit a president serving more than two terms ran into Gov. James E. Folsom's opposition today.

The amendment already had been approved by the House and now is in the Senate constitutions committee. Folsom wrote the members of the committee asking that they block the measure.

He said the proposal gained momentum because "the great Franklin D. Roosevelt was president of all the people" and that it was sponsored in Congress by persons "long unfriendly to the late President Roosevelt."

A BILL TO PROHIBIT Negroes and whites living in the same residential areas was reported out of the Senate committee on municipalities today and will go on the calendar Friday.

Klansmen Gather For Pell City Rally

Spinks Declares 1,000 Will Parade Robed, Unmasked

BY JAMES SPOTTSWOOD

PELL CITY, Ala., Aug. 20—(AP)—Cross burnings, the fiery speech of a white-maned Klan orator, and a robed parade signalled a renewal of Ku Klux Klan activity in Alabama Saturday night.

As robed but unmasked Klansmen assembled for the parade in this Northwest Alabama City, Dr. Lycurgus Spinks, 64-year-old minister and Klan speaker, estimated the number would reach 1,000.

No such public demonstration had been held since the Alabama Legislature last June outlawed public mask wearing in a blow directed at hooded terrorism.

The Klan has enough members to "unseat all the politicians fighting it," Dr. Spinks told a courthouse crowd of 600 at Talladega, Ala., Friday night.

The elderly Baptist minister denied the Klan is "after the poor old Negro." Actually the Klan is responsible for the decrease in lynchings in the United States, he said. He called the sheeted order "the greatest defense against communism America has."

Three fiery crosses blazed around Gadsden, Ala., Friday night. Residents in their vicinity said Klan literature was found near them.

Gadsden is about 50 miles northeast of Pell City. Talladega is some 20 miles to the southeast.

Dr. Spinks calls himself "the fightingest buck private in the rear ranks of the Klan."

* * *

Morris Denies He Will Seek Georgia Leadership

William Hugh Morris, Alabama Klan leader, from his cell in County Jail Saturday took issue with a headline in Saturday's issues of The Birmingham News.

The headline said "Morris Seeks Klan Crown." The story dealt with developments following the death of Dr. Samuel Green, imperial wizard of the Klan in Georgia.

"Nothing is further from my mind," Morris said regarding the headline.

"I've read with amazement the newspaper reports of my seeking to replace Dr. Green as head of the Klan," Morris said in a written statement.

"I've made no such statement and have absolutely no desire to take his place as imperial wizard of the Georgia Klans.

"I've known Dr. Green since 1925 and have loved and respected him as a Klansman and personal friend during this time. His untimely passing creates in me a sense of deep personal loss.

"Please do me the simple favor of entirely retracting your headline in today's paper: 'Morris Seeks Klan Crown'. Nothing is further from my mind."

Newsmen quoted Morris as saying Friday there is speculation he may be named titular, if not actual, head of the nation's Klans. He added, however, he doesn't know for certain.

He said he and Dr. Green had discussed a merger of their two organizations and that "we were very close to agreement in July."

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KKK (Alabama)

Washington Notebook

The Courier, Pittsburgh, Pa. Sat. 6-25-49

By LEM GRAVES JR.

(Courier's Washington Correspondent)

America Aroused . . . Klan Attacking Whites

WASHINGTON — Undemocratic forces in America traditionally road-test their nefarious schemes upon the handiest minority group around because they know that the masses of U. S. citizens are split up along class and racial lines.

After a thorough test, the forces of reaction are then ready to apply the schemes to any who get in the way, be they white, black, Jew or Gentile. Two developments in last week's news spotlight this situation.

Lem Graves Jr.

In Alabama, Ku Klux Klansmen or other white-robed cowards last week started to beating up white people, threatening white families including little children and otherwise playing havoc with the civil liberties of Dixie white folks.

White Americans, who pride themselves on their freedom and liberty, are callously indifferent to violations of the liberties of Negro Americans. Whites apparently operate on the erroneous theory that reaction and hoodlumism will always stop on the edge of the white community. The history of oppression shows that when the power and viciousness of reactionary elements are encouraged at the expense of helpless minorities, the end result is an assault by these same elements upon all parts of the population. Germany found out what Dixie will eventually learn. Oppression on rampage knows no bounds. Sat. 6-25-49

* * *

AT THE SAME TIME last week, the heretofore sacrosanct FBI was placed on the public opinion griddle. Public confidence in its investigative methods is seriously undermined. It is quite possible that the halo of authority and prestige which the FBI has worn for so many years has been irretrievably lost. It is freely predicted that J. Edgar Hoover may resign because of the lack of Presidential confidence in his agency and because the public takes a dim view of the kind of irrelevant and gossipy information which the FBI submits in its files on U. S. citizens.

We are reminded that, for many weeks, this newspaper protested against the type of racially slanted questioning to which FBI agents allegedly resorted in "loyalty" investigations. In the Government workers' loyalty investigation, Negroes and whites who showed an interest in civil rights or in being friendly to their Negro colleagues were the prime targets. In the minds of bigoted white informants, the FBI files showed, civil rights activity on the part of either Negroes or whites, is prima facie evidence of Communist infection.

But nobody got disturbed about the revelations that FBI reports on Government workers included a great deal of irrelevant matter which had an adverse effect on the jobs of Negroes and their white friends. Failure to check the FBI on this type of thing led to the kind of stuff which shocked the Nation last week when it was revealed to all the world how little discretion is used in assembling "derogatory" information on unsuspecting people.

* * *

HERE AND THERE: A hard-hitting, well-done pamphlet pointing up the injustices of Army jim crow is now on sale all over the country. Prepared under the auspices of the National Committee Against Jim Crow in Military Training and Service, the booklet, "Nobody Knows . . . " is a powerful pleader for justice in military service. The admirably edited booklet resists the temptation, so often noted in efforts of this kind, to run rampant with wordy propaganda.

Instead, the booklet relies, for its impact, upon the bitterly satirical cartoons which are featured throughout. These cartoons, principally the work of Bernard Seaman, say much more than thousands of words devoted to an essay on jim crow. With a restraint which few protest pamphleteers manifest, the editors have sprinkled a few direct and forceful words, well spaced and tastefully presented, among the striking cartoons. Even so, the words are largely superfluous so revealing and forceful are the pen sketches of the artists.

Reliance on the cartoon technique begins with the cover which shows a ragged, sharecropper veteran hanging over a broken down fence on a barren Dixie farm wistfully coddling a war medal for heroic services to the Nation which has now forsaken him. Proceeds from the sale of this interesting book (price: 25 cents) will be used to continue the work of this committee which is fighting to make the armed services truly democratic.

Sat. 6-25-49

EVEN THE MOST enthusiastic Negro supporters of the Air Force integration plan are beginning to ask questions about one or two phases of the reassignment program. They are asking why the Air Force is not sending more former fighter pilots into strategic bombers and other multi-engine craft. This is where many white fighter pilots generally go when they have tired of fighters.

Foresaw Trouble—

One Trustee Of Klan Resigned In 1947

The News, Birmingham, Ala. Tue. 6-28-49

Robert S. Gulledge, Sr., one of the incorporators of the Federated Ku Klux Klan, Inc., more than two years ago became so uneasy about the organization that he resigned and asked that his name be stricken from the rolls.

Gulledge, who says he still believes in the principles of the Klan as outlined in the charter, told Dr. E. P. Pruitt, the chairman of the organization April, 1947 that he believed the Klan should voluntarily disolve.

* * *

MR. GULLEDGE, who has been on the organization end of a number of orders and organizations here, wants to make it plain that he is a believer in "white supremacy, protestant, Gentile creeds, opposition to a church-controlled state," and other principles of the Klan as set forth in its charter.

"Any corporation whose principles and purposes are so generally misunderstood as to the extent that it might cause unrest and demoralization," Gulledge's letter of resignation said, "should, in my opinion, voluntarily disolve itself."

* * *

GULLEDGE'S LETTER of resignation as a member of the board of trustees was dated April 28, 1947.

Although Gulledge's letter of resignation is on file at the Jefferson County Probate Court, the records at the court fail to show that the Klan has taken any action to replace him on the board of trustees.

The text of Gulledge's letter of resignation, addressed to Dr. E. P. Pruitt, chairman, and William Hugh Morris, treasurer, of the Federated Ku Klux Klan, Inc., follows:

Post Office Box 1804
Birmingham, Alabama
April 28, 1947

Dr. E. P. Pruitt, chairman, and
William Hugh Morris, treasurer,
Federated Ku Klux Klan, Inc.
Birmingham, Alabama.

Gentlemen:

This is to advise you that I am, as of this day and date, severing my connection, officially and otherwise, with the Federated Ku Klux Klan, Incorporated. After this date I will not transact any business for or in the name of this corporation. The charter, which the three of us asked for and obtained under the laws of Alabama, provide that: Should any member of said board of trustees, or governors thereof, resign or that if a vacancy should occur in said board by death, that the remaining two trustees or governors would have the legal right to select and appoint his successor. Therefore you have the legal right to name some one to succeed me as one of the trustees or governors of said corporation.

It is my seriously considered judgment, that this action is in public interest and it is also my opinion that it is to the interest of all parties concerned. Frankly, I believe that you should dissolve the corporation, willingly and cheerfully, by filing your declaration of dissolution with the Probate Court of Jefferson County—for record—sending a copy of same to the secretary of state, at Montgomery, Ala.

This action, upon your part, will not be an apology for our belief in white supremacy, our Protestant, Gentile creeds, our continued opposition to a church-controlled state, our obedience to, and the support of our federal constitution and all constitutional laws, it's flag, freedom of press, peaceable assembly and an unhampered freedom of speech.

In short, any corporation whose principles and purposes are so generally misunderstood to the extent that it might cause unrest and demoralization should, in my opinion, voluntarily dissolve it's legal status in the common interest of the public.

My association with you, officially and otherwise, has been most pleasant, and I assure you of my friendship as well as my steadfast faith in your honorable and good intentions as true American citizens..

Fraternally yours.
R. S. GULLEDGE, SR.

Tue. 6-28-49

North Georgia Methodists Hit Mob-Lawlessness

The Daily World, Atlanta, Ga. Sat. 6-25-49

The North Georgia Conference of the Methodist Church called on the Georgia State legislature to pass anti-mask laws and other legislations designed to end the "acts of lawlessness and violence" in the state.

The group unanimously adopted a resolution condemning "the use of the cross as a symbol of terror." The Methodist resolution also requested anti-lynch legislation.

The resolution stated that "terrorism in Georgia and neighboring areas have brought shame and deep humiliation to good citizens."

Disabled Vets Condemn Klan

Daily World, Atlanta, Ga.

The Ku Klux Klan was condemned by the Disabled American Veterans, Georgia department, Saturday as a "subversive organization which seeks to promote terrorism, brutality and public evil."

The resolution was the first of a Georgia veterans' organization to mention opposition to the Klan by name.

Sun. 6-26-49

The DAV resolution said that the Klan "has been deemed a subversive organization by the Department of Justice of the United of America . . . and is contrary to true Ameri-

canism. Continuance of force, brutality and unlawfulness might tend to bring about chaotic conditions, create disunity and eventually lead to war."

Recent Floggins Have Included White People

The Journal and Guide *(3)*

Norfolk, Va.

Wilkins Cites Violence Against Colored People And Usual Lack Of Convictions

Sat. 7-2-49

WASHINGTON, D. C. (NNPA)—While very little has been learned about the scope of the inquiry ordered by the House Judiciary Committee into activities of the Ku Klux Klan in Alabama, informed circles here believed that it would be extended to activities directed against colored people as well as floggings of several whites in the Birmingham area.

The House Judiciary subcommittee, headed by Representative William T. Byrne, Democrat, of New York, which is to make the investigation, is hearing witnesses on civil rights and anti-lynching legislation. Extension of its inquiry into Klan activities to violence to intimidate colored people moving into so-called white residential areas in Birmingham and to specific cases of lynching and mob violence in other southern states would be in line with both inquiries.

Representative Emanuel Celler of New York, chairman of the Judiciary Committee, directed the investigation into Klan activities Wednesday of last week to determine the extent to which existing Federal rights statutes have been violated. *Sat. 7-2-49*

INVESTIGATING VIOLENCE

While Mr. Celler disclosed that agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation have been working on Klan activities in Alabama, it also was known that agents have been inquiring into acts of violence and intimidation as well as threats to bomb homes purchased by colored persons in an area in North Smithfield, a suburb of Birmingham.

The Byrne subcommittee is inviting Clark Stallworth, a reporter for a daily Birmingham newspaper to appear as a witness. Mr. Stallworth was beaten while working on a story of violence by hooded gangs.

Shortly after Mr. Celler had directed the inquiry into Klan activities, the Byrne subcommittee was told the colored persons have been lynched with impunity and no law has operated to punish the lynchers.

WILKINS' STATEMENT

A statement prepared by Roy Wilkins, acting secretary of the National Aassociation for the Advancement of Colored People, was read to the committee by Leslie Perry, administrative assistant in the NAACP's Washington Bureau.

In his statement, Mr. Wilkins said that "pattern of violence" has operated against colored persons by the denial to them of access to the ballot box through trickery not short of murder."

Mr. Wilkins pointed out that at intimidation, terror, and violence the last primary election held in Georgia in September, 1948, Isaac Nixon of Toombs county, a World War II veteran, was shot down and killed in his home after the polls closed simply because he exercised his right to vote.

Also cited was the case of D. V. Carter, father of ten children, who was beaten in Montgomery county, Ga., and driven from his home because he urged colored people to vote and carried some of them to the polls on election day.

MALLARD LYNCHING

Mr. Wilkins also cited the lynching of Robert Mallard in Toombs county, November 20, 1948. Mallard was shot to death in his automobile in the presence of his wife and child, according to Mr. Wilkins, because he was not the "right kind of Negro" and was "too prosperous." No one has been punished for this crime.

Referring to the lynching of Caleb Hill near Irwinton, Ga., on Memorial Day, M. Wilkins said "That even so small a part of due process as the arrest of an offender is considered abnormal in the locality is indicated by the comment of Solicitor C. S. Baldwin, who is quoted by the Associated Press as saying: "Most Georgia sheriffs would have shot the Negro instead of taking him to jail."

Mr. Wilkins charged that "a new lynching procedure" has developed in the South. He said it is now fashionable "to make a quick arrest of a suspect or suspects and present the case to the grand jury. More often than not the grand jury refuses to indict. In the cases where it does indict, a trial is held and a speedy acquittal secured."

Greer Intends To Press Bill To Unmask Klan Again

The World *(3)* *Atlanta, Ga.*

Fri. 3-4-49

Charging that "deliberate plans to persecute the Negroes, Jews and Catholics are placed before the Klan members," Rep. John Greer, of Lanier county, Thursday pledged to the people of Georgia that the bill to unmask the Ku Klux Klan will eventually be passed.

The author of the klan bill made the statement in a prepared address for delivery before the Atlanta Junior Chamber of Commerce Thursday afternoon.

Pointing out that "the bill we introduced in the House was not a bill to abolish the Klan or any similar organization," Representative Greer said, "Our bill simply attempted to ban the wearing of masks and hoods in any public place such as an outdoor meeting, a parade or a public demonstration." *Atlanta, Ga.*

"If the Klan and other hooded organizations were stripped of their masks and hoods, they would not exist for six months. Their parades would stop. Cross burnings would cease, and their drives for new members would not bring in any more suckers and their $10 fees to the tills of their leaders." *The World*

The Lanier representative stated that the bill will be offered again and again until it is passed. He said that someone else will bring up the unmasking bill again if he is not back. *(3)* *Fri. 3-4-49*

He referred to the Klansmen as "hooded hoodlums" and "sheeted jerks." He compared them to the Columbians, the Black Raiders, and Hitlerites as "patriots for profit."

"They scare people into joining by telling them that they will save the country from the Negroes, from the Jews, from the Catholics, and from any other group they seek to browbeat or intimidate." he further stated.

KKK and the Devil

The Constitution *Atlanta, Ga.*

Editor Constitution: Just read the front page article about the K. K. K. (June 15). Congratulations!!!

The K. K. K. is the biggest disgrace in this country where freedom is supposed to exist in all of its States.

By the time I was five years old I believed in God; also, I had heard about the devil or Satan. It was at that age that from our hotel window we saw one of those "parades" of the K. K. K. It impressed me so that I started crying and screaming—I was sure they were messengers of the devil trying to get people to burn. None of the explanations of my parents took that idea out of my mind. I knew something horrible had to be under those masks when they had to cover themselves so.

We who believe in God—Protestants, Catholics or Jews—can't accept such an organization, which is based only on hate. I wonder if any of its members fought for this country during the war? If so, (he) must have been so afraid of fighting showing his face! *Mon. 6-27-49*

Atlanta. MRS. E. CARTER.

Look At Cotters Is Coming Soon

The Post *Birmingham, Ala.*

The State of Alabama wants to know how hooded organizations handle their money.

Gov. James E. Folsom said today he would direct the State Department of Revenue to "cooperate closely with the federal government" in investigating fiscal affairs of hooded orders.

The State Revenue Departments comes under the direction of Phillip Hamm. *Tue. 6-28-49*

Gov. Folsom said: "The State of Alabama is interested in how corporations and organizations handle money.

"Hooded orders and other similar organizations are no exception," the governor said.

Hoods Ordered Off in Ala., Klan Chief Takes Action; FBI, House Probes Looming

The Constitution
Atlanta Ga. Sun. 6-26-49.

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—(AP)—The head of the Ku Klux Klan in Alabama last night ordered its members to stop wearing hoods.

Dr. E. P. Pruitt, Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federated Ku Klux Klan, Inc., said members were ordered "to discard their visors."

"The visors will be worn only at initiation ceremonies, and similar ceremonies," Dr. Pruitt told the Associated Press. He said the order is permanent.

"We do not intend to dissolve the Klan, even if our charter is revoked," he said. "We will continue to meet, and we will obey all laws."

Legislation to ban the wearing of masks has been approved by the State Senate and is expected to pass the House next week.

The Klan has been accused of being involved in a wave of floggings, cross burnings and threats in this area in recent weeks. Dr. Pruitt denies that members participated.

U. S. Atty. Gen. Tom Clark has ordered the FBI to make a full investigation of night riding activities here.

A congressional civil rights subcommittee also has ordered an investigation into mob violence in Alabama. That investigation is scheduled to start Wednesday in Washington.

State investigators have been sent here by Gov. James E. Folsom. The Governor also ordered State Atty. Gen. Albert A. Carmichael to start proceedings to revoke the Klan charter.

The federated Ku Klux Klan was chartered in Probate Court here in 1947. Dr. Pruitt is head of its Board of Governors and William Hugh Morris is director. It has member Klans in virtually every County in Alabama.

At Montgomery, Carmichael said he plans to start legal proceedings seeking to revoke the Klan charter some time next week. He said the action would be filed in Jefferson County (Birmingham) Circuit Court.

Clark Acts

Memphis World

Liberals in the South must have been encouraged Friday by the announcement that Attorney General Tom Clark had ordered a full field investigation by the Justice department into recent night rider violence in Alabama.

Simultaneously, a congressional committee ordered public hearings on floggings in our sister state.

Mr. W. A. Fowlkes

Despite objections by Southerners, who consistently want to keep "their business" to themselves, there is to be noted some progress in the development of real American democracy here. Though the probe is a long-time coming, in the light of lynchings and brutalities to both whites and Negroes in the South, it is welcome. The nation will learn a little more about the mentality of those who have organized brutality and disorder. Perhaps an anti-lynch law will follow. The time is ripe.

Memphis, Tenn.

The North Georgia Conference of the Methodist Church, meeting in Atlanta last week, called for anti-lynching legislation and condemned "the use of the cross as a symbol of terror."

Significantly the Southern, sectional church group referred to the special responsibility of the church to "speak out for justice and brotherhood."

The group joined the growing list of courageous churchmen willing to be quoted and to be cited as working against homefront subversiveness. Bravo!

—O—

St. Louis, Missouri, and Martin's Ferry, Ohio, last week saw outbreaks of violence as the result of extending the Negro's citizenship to include full participation in municipally-owned swimming pools. Police attributed most of the trouble to teen-agers. The spirit of the rebel yell lives on despite the almost completely dwindled ranks of those who fought for slavery. Perhaps an investigation of textbooks and teaching by some un-American activities committee is needed after all!

Tue 6-28-49

Joseph M. Goldwasser's talk with KKK Grand Dragon Samuel Green didn't bring out anything spectacular. There was the somewhat ironical statement by the latter that KKK neither hates nor harms anyone. Savvy?

—O—

The seepage of a natural feeling for American equality continues to make its most formidable appearance in Virginia and North Carolina. At the state convention of the North Carolina NAACP, delegates called for elimination of discrimination and segregation in the state school system and passage of a fair employment practices law by the state legislature.

We are letting it be known that Negro Americans want to be Americans by every standard. And, why not?

—O—

Large industry in the United States is gradually getting around to including Negroes in public relations and managerial posts. It may be industry's move to thwart a Federal FEPC, which will finally be adopted, despite the blockades. Leon H. Hardwick, well known newspaperman and publicist, is the latest addition to the growing army. He joined Carnation milk.

There are hundreds of other companies whose products find favor and use in American Negro homes. They, too, need to formally recognize the Negro field with employment in higher, as well as lower, brackets.

Klan-Mindedness Must Also Go

(An Editorial in The Alabama Journal, Montgomery)

Birm. News
Birmingham, Ala.
Mon. 7-4-49

The 1949 Legislature of Alabama has done something which ought to have been done 25 years ago. Taking the masks off the Ku Klux Klan is only one step in controlling secret and anonymous mob violence, but it is an important step, and will help in identifying and punishing acts of secret cowardice and craven bullying.

Twenty-five years ago in Alabama the Klan grew like a noxious weed on a hysterical diet of mixed appeals to patriotism, religion and race pride. It enlisted some good, but sadly deluded men. It swept into politics. It elected a governor, a United States senator, county officials, a mayor of Birmingham. It rode high in politics and sank low in hoodlumism. Those who were fighting it and what it stood for in those days did so in the constant expectation of personal violence. Most people chose the easy way, and let the Klan pursue its course.

But sensible men of the state even in those emotional years wanted laws to make Klansmen take off the mask, come out in the open and stand forth like real men and not sneaking cowards. The issue was raised in the Legislature of those days, and a brave fight made to get laws dealing with the hooded and sheeted organization. The fight was in vain, because the Klan was too powerfully fortified politically, and there were men who actually thought its skulking methods were helping law and order and keeping certain evils down.

Birmingham then as now was the heart and center of Klanism. Montgomery under the leadership of Mayor Gunter quickly took the situation in hand. Montgomery passed an anti-mask ordinance with teeth in it which has been on the books ever since, and Montgomery happily has had none of the Klan rowdyism so rampant in the Birmingham district. When Klansmen threatened to defy the city authorities and parade the streets of Montgomery in masks they were told that as sure as they did so, some of them would be killed and that Montgomery authorities meant exactly what their ordinance said against such thuggery. We would have none of it, and the Klan didn't parade in Montgomery.

It's largely a matter of attitude, of courage, of the bravery of men who have charge of law enforcement. That is the main thing needed today. Our state officials have been trifling with the subject for a year. The whole present executive administration is studded with Klan leaders of yesterday. They have talked and at the same time secretly condoned. We were told a year ago that the law authorities knew all about a notorious Bessemer raid and would soon make arrests and round up the offenders. It was all bosh because cowardly public officials had no intention of offending men who might later produce votes. Alabama got into its present mess because we had no backbone in law enforcement agencies from the governor on down.

What of the present? What next? What does this new anti-masking law mean? It means absolutely nothing if the officials continue to sit and let matters take their own course. A mere law is futile in the hands of officials who are Klan-minded.

Back in the days of the 1920s when the Klan rode high those of us who were fighting it day and night with tongue and pen and heart emphasized that even laws would be useless so long as there was a great body of citizenship that was Klan-minded. Klan-mindedness include many of those not Klan members, those who did not wear masks, but were secretly sympathetic with its covert and cowardly methods. Klan-mindedness meant a man could still be a Klansman with all its

evils and not wear a mask.

That is true even today. Taking a mask from a man by legal force does not change his heart. If he was Klan-minded in mask and sheet he will be Klan-minded without a mask and sheet. Enforcement, earnest and vigorous enforcement of laws against any sort of mass violence is the duty and obligation of officials today. Many of our worst mob crimes are committed by men without masks. They are as Klan-minded as any man who wears a mask. It is against them we must deal with sternness. 7-4-49

When crimes against others are committed by mobs and groups we must make the punishment severe. Only in that way will we gradually and surely cure Klan-mindedness. We have now taken off their masks; the next step is to make Christians out of them.

No Conduct Justifies Hooded Action

The News, Birmingham

Any sentiment among our people that any sort of personal conduct justifies hooded gang action in warning, rebuke or punishment testifies to a profound and dangerous misconception of our American system of justice and personal security.

That system depends on definite provisions and orderly processes of law.

Such provisions set forth clearly the kind of personal conduct which we hold to be subject to control and punishment. Without such clear provisions, no man could know his rights.

The judicial processes, including trial by jury, undertakes to assure a fair trial for every citizen accused of law violation. Without such processes, there could be no assurance of justice. Jue. 6-23-49

If any gang or group, acting on its own initiative, were to be permitted to decide what is wrong and to act accordingly in attempted intimidation or punishment of other citizens, the fundamental protections of all of us would be in extreme jeopardy. Toleration of that sort of thing could lead to a chaotic breakdown of law and order. No man would be safe.

* * *

These are fundamental conceptions in our American way of life. Their primary importance should be obvious. But it is evident that not all of our people recognize this importance and the urgent duty of upholding the law under all conditions.

Hooded violence is utterly lawless, contemptible and intolerable, whatever the conduct of its victims.

Lynching is no less lynching when it involves the murder of a murderer.

Masked or [illegible] groups seeking to regulate personal behavior and impose their will, their judgment and their punishment on others, by action outside the law, are to be unreservedly condemned, forever combated and suppressed and punished, regardless of any attempted justification for such vicious and perverted enterprises. Jue. 6-23-49

In reporting cases of such lawless action in this area, this paper, of course, has not undertaken to pass any judgment on the personal conduct of victims. It is not, of course, our function to do that as it is certainly not the function of any lawless gangs. Action outside the law is insufferable, and illimitably dangerous to our way of life and our system of justice, whatever the factors that prompt it.

* * *

In a letter headed "A Protest" in the Voice of the People on this page today, the writer says that in a territory where recent hooded action has occurred, "no decent person anywhere is afraid or even disturbed about a visit of any mob of any kind any time."

This paper is of the deep conviction that every citizen of a community in which lawless, robed bands have operated has the most urgent reason for the most intense concern about such outrages. He may not feel that his own safety is immediately menaced, but there can be no telling where that kind of action, unless put down, will strike or end. Any indifference toward the general menace of lawlessness contributes to its terrible perils.

For An End Of It All!

The News Birmingham, Ala.

Many factors are strengthening hope for an early end of masked and unmasked gang activity in Alabama.

Forces of the law and of public opinion are developing powerful momentum in their efforts to that end.

It was expected that by nightfall today the Mize anti-masking bill would be enacted into law, with the House following the Senate in approval and Gov. Folsom promptly adding his signature.

This step should prove a powerful deterrent to hooded operations and be of great advantage to officers in enforcement of the law. Birmingham, Ala.

The outlawing of the Ku Klux Klan and of hooded organizations of any sort is the objective of other moves, which soon may produce definite new action.

Meantime, the mobilization of the sentiment of the people against the lawlessness that lately has scourged this area is producing far-reaching, constructive effects. There may have been a time when some of the masked and sheeted gang members felt that their activities had a widespread public support—that, at least, there was no very ardent public and official concern about their reappearance in our community life. But surely these lawbreakers can be under no such impression now.

Good citizens in unmistakable terms have expressed their deep aversion to such outrageous goings-on. They demand that they shall come to a complete end. It seems far less likely, in the face of that aroused public opinion, that there will be more such incidents, although, of course, it is not to be assumed that we are already entirely free of such things.

To be assured of any such freedom, there must be convincing evidence that the law can and will deal with violations resolutely and effectively. There are encouraging signs in this respect, but much remains to be done along this line. Jue. 6-28-49

It also is essential, if this dread blight is to be eradicated from our life, that public opinion continue actively on the job of combating all such ugly and evil tendencies.

In Birmingham the citizens' Committee of 500 has come under the over-all chairmanship of Donald Comer, an outstanding, high-minded and able leader. A standing committee of 15 widely representative members has been named to direct the endeavors of the organization in support of law enforcement. Five citizens who were named to choose the standing committee will continue to serve with that group at Mr. Comer's request.

Vigilance in behalf of the law and of law enforcement and vigorous and sustained activation of the power of the people's will—the ultimate power in free government—may be expected from the functioning of this citizen's organization.

Jue. 6-28-49

While there are substantial grounds for satisfaction in the progress of the broad campaign against gang lawlessness, it is obvious that this undertaking calls for continuing and determined efforts. Guilty men still must be found and prosecuted. Safeguards must be established against the repetition of such crimes. No doubt whatever should be permitted to remain as to public opinions sweeping condemnation of mob violence. Complacency must not be permitted to develop ever again.

State Out To Annul Charter Of K. K. K.

The News, Birmingham, Ala.

Carmichael Says He'll File Papers In Circuit Court Here Next Week

Sat. 6-25-49

By HUGH W. SPARROW
News Staff Writer

MONTGOMERY, Ala., June 25—Atty. Gen. A. A. Carmichael Saturday announced he would file proceedings at an early date in the Jefferson County Circuit Court "for the purpose of annulling, canceling, rescinding and revoking the charter of the Klan in Alabama."

Mr. Carmichael said he had planned to file the necessary papers in the court at Birmingham Monday, but an unexpected delay in preparation of the case would defer action probably until later in the week.

* * *

IT WAS the first time since Gov. Folsom one week ago requested him to consider charter revocation action against hooded organizations that Carmichael had said definitely action to outlaw such organizations would be taken.

Furthermore, in his announcement the attorney general did not mention merely "hooded organizations" but he speciifed that the action he planned would be taken directly aaginst "the Ku Klux Klan in Alabama."

Carmichael's statement, leading up to the announcement of action soon to be taken against the Klan, declared: Sat. 6-25-49

"The contention of the Klan that the Mize bill, which seeks to unmask and disrobe the Klan, is violative of either the Alabama or the U. S. Constitution, is without the slightest foundation in fact.

"If enacted, and I believe it will be enacted, the Mize bill simply authorizes the state to exercise its power designed to accomplish a legitimate end of government. Such legislation is in line with public health, safety, tranquility, and welfare measures.

* * *

"THE LAW OF THE LAND, supporting the unmasking and disrobing of the Klan, is based upon the following general principles:

"If persons are permitted to go disguised upon the streets, the innocent and unwary may fall easy victim to the criminal and vicious, and peace officers are powerless to afford protection, unless a crime is committed in their presence and the offender then seized. Clearly, a disguise is a shield and protection to the criminal, and, in the absence of regulatory measures, allowing persons to disguise themselves with robes and face masks, affords encouragement to the vicious and criminal. Sat. 6-25-49

"Such masking and disguising promotes crime and discord and tends to endanger the safety and to disturb the peace of the community. Such matters are, therefore, a proper subject for police regulation.

"It is my intention to file proceedings in the Circuit Court of Jefferson County soon for the purpose of annuling, cancelling, recinding, and revoking the charter of the Ku Klux Klan in Alabama."

The Man Behind the Scene

By Spang II

Montgomery Examiner
Montgomery, Ala.
Thur. 6-23-49

"No Gestapo Needed In Jefferson"

Klansmen Given No Sympathy As Committee Okeys Mize Bill

Montgomery Examiner
Montgomery, Ala.

Klan spokesmen from Birmingham found no sympathy in the House judiciary committee Wednesday as members voted without a single "No" to report out the Mize Bill designed to stop masked lawlessness in Alabama.

Klansman William Hugh Morris, Birmingham, who insisted that the KKK "is part of the tradition of the South" and bragged that 200 men are now "patrolling the streets of Birmingham," got his answer from two young veterans.

Thur. 6-23-49

John Foster, Birmingham attorney, in a brief impassioned appeal for the bill said the Klan may have been justified in the last century "but there's no excuse for it now. We need no Gestapo in Jefferson County."

Senator Mize spoke for his bill, telling an effective story of his military service.

"When we went into Beligum," he said, "a woman there told me that the greatest joy she got out of the Americans' coming was the knowledge that no group of men could come to her home in the dead of night and take away a member of her family."

Eugene Wells, representing CIO, said, "We are against all mob violence."

L. C. Allbright, Birmingham attorney, who proclaimed the fact that "I have never lived more than 150 miles from where I was born," assailed the Mize law as a "smear sheet newspaper bill."

He said he had been a member of the Klan 25 years ago along with Governor Graves and Judge Hugo Black. Allbright charged the bill would be used against Catholic...

sisters and Shrine paraders.

"It's just politicians trying to get the Negro vote," he shouted.

Grand Jury Indictments

The News

Return by the Grand Jury of 44 indictments against 14 persons charged with participation in mob action in Jefferson County surely was gratifying to all decent citizens.

Law and order is and has been our objective. The Grand Jury clearly has served a most solemn purpose. Its members appear...

the fullest extent, to have lived up to ... responsibility.

Of course, return of indictments does not establish guilt or innocence of any of those persons charged by the Grand Jury. These indictments will receive fair and open trial in which the full s... of mob actions may be brought to li...

Solicitor Emmett Perry has remarked ... investigation of mob violence has just begun. That more remains to be done would seem evident. The number of indictments indicates a thorough investigation, and the likelihood that much tangible evidence already has been provided by state investigators. But certainly more than 14 persons have been involved in the many night ...ding incidents in this county.

...son County has pointed the way for ...counties. If sufficient facts for indictments have been discovered in Jefferson, then evidence surely can be found in other Alabama counties where the hood has been in action.

Birmingham

The refusal of William Hugh Morris to show Klan records remains as unfinished business. The new Grand Jury which begins its work this week has a solemn duty to perform in getting to the bottom of alleged Klan participation in night riding actions. The solicitor and the state attorney general, Albert A. Carmichael, both seem to have reason to believe those records are pertinent. Mr. Morris' assertions regarding the sanctity of such records seem shallow.

Judge Robert J. Wheeler's commendation to the Grand Jury, upon its dismissal, should have an echo in every home in this area. News, 7-11-49

Let the battle against hooded violence be carried forward to the end that justice shall be supreme as our common attainment, and that the orderly process of law enforcement stand unchallenged.

Tell It To Old Grandma

Letters to the editor must carry complete name and street address of the writer, though pen names may be used at the editor's discretion. Letters of less than 200 words are given preference. All letters may be cut.

Advertiser

Last Stand Of The Klan

EDITOR, THE ADVERTISER—The Klan has belched forth much flame and fury since the governor signed the anti-masking bill into law.

Now, as the question of the revocation of the Klan charter comes to the front, we hear loud wails, protests of innocence, and the question of legislative justice in this ... the Klan for good. Surely the Klan has heard of "justifiable homicide." Apparently our legislative body has. Amid the protesting shrieks of Klansmen, and the heartfelt approval of Americans everywhere, our present legislature has taken an unprecedented and commendable step.

It is understandable how some men can stand up for the Klan and at the same time keep a clear conscience. Some people were born without such a thing. Whereas, on the other hand, some men support it because they honestly think it is a right and noble thing. But men like the Rev. Alvin Horne, of Talladega, reaffirm anew my conviction that the world is made up of queer people and strange twists. How anyone, particularly a man whose life is dedicated to the teaching of universal brotherhood and mutual understanding among men of all races and creeds, can actively support such an organization is beyond me. It seems such a pity that a man who has spent his life

...of God, seemingly has been unable to grasp the real significance of Christianity.

7-14-49

But getting back to the Kluxer's last stand, it strikes me forcibly that the Klan is placing its entire defense in nothing but exceptions to the rule. They rant about intermarriages, rave about social equality, (questions that have been discussed and debated since slavery first started) and then loudly scream and plead for the urgency of white sheets.

Let us hope that there are many more men in our legislature who have the scope of vision and enlightened minds of Senator Henry Mize and A. A. Carmichael who have taken such a magnificent stand against the Klan.

Clayton, Ala. ALVIN C. BLAND.

Floggers Left Up to Alabama By Lawmakers

Bham News

By JAMES FREE

News Washington Correspondent

WASHINGTON, June 30—A House judiciary subcommittee, with scarcely a backward glance, left hooded night riders of Alabama to the FBI and forces of state law today.

There were varying reactions in the capital to Alabama's brief moment before a congressional investigating committee. These were some of them:

Bhm. 6-30-49

REP. SAM HOBBS, Alabama Democrat and long-time member of the committee, called the hearing "very amusing" and said it should make the nation even prouder of the people of Alabama.

Rep. Emmanuel Celler, New York Democrat and judiciary chairman, said the three witnesses he called to Washington gave testimony of the flouting of civil rights which was "far from 'amusing.'"

He said the hearing pointed up need for his strengthened civil rights bill.

Rep. Laurie Battle, Birmingham, commented the hearing "never proved a thing and never intended to prove anything."

And William Foley, counsel for the judiciary committee, said Alabamians have every reason to be proud and no cause to be ashamed of the story told to the committee yesterday.

The subcommittee chairman, Rep. Byrne (D. N. Y.), said he had no plans to continue the investigation.

6-30-49

CELLER, WHO CALLED the hearing, found little in its testimony to support his demands for a catch-all civil rights bill. In fact, the hearing showed just the opposite—that the state of Alabama

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is all right in Alabama," the white-bearded Negro declared. "It hasn't been for 80 years."

Reporter Lake warned that a full-scale investigation by Congress might jeopardize an inquiry by the Jefferson County Grand Jury.

He spoke highly of the work of four state officers sent to Birmingham June 10 by Gov. Folsom.

"They told me they had orders to smash the night-riders and were going all-out to do it," Lake said. "I've seen a lot of these men lately and I can tell you they've done a darn good job."

6-30-49

HE SAID THEY WILL head for Walker County after they finish in Jefferson and "I think they will turn up plenty about what has happened over there."

Lake, quizzed by Hobbs and Rep. Kenneth Keating (R., N. Y.) told the committee only one of the **mob incidents has involved either race or religion.**

Most of the raids, the reporter said, were made by white masked men on white people whose behavior the hooded men did not like.

Rep. Hobbs, a judiciary committee, was allowed to sit in on the hearings and question witnesses.

6-30-49

He called attention of the hearing to the fact that Alabama Tuesday completed enactment of a new state law prohibiting the wearing of masks in public.

Hobbs also put the three reporters on record as saying they were requested to come to the hearing and did not ask to testify.

1 Citation Enough For Klan Leader

Advertiser

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., July 13—(AP)—A circuit judge ruled today that one contempt citation is enough for Klan Leader William Hugh Morris, now in jail for refusing to turn over Klan records to a grand jury.

Montgomery, Ala.

The balding, heavy-set Morris, director of the Federated Ku Klux Klans, Inc., was sentenced last week for refusing to bring records before the grand jury which ended its sessions Saturday.

Bhm. 7-14-49

Morris, a Birmingham roofing contractor, went before a grand jury yesterday. He made the same refusal. Solicitor Emmett Perry and the new grand jury sought a new court order against Morris today.

House Group Votes Alabama Hood Ban

Washington Post

Washington, D.C.

Montgomery, Ala., June 22 (U.P.)—A committee of the House of Representatives of the State Legislature today approved a law banning public wearing of masks or hoods despite bitter opposition by officials of the Ku Klux Klan.

6-23-49

The committee swept aside claims that the KKK has a divine mission to maintain white supremacy and wears hoods as "a memorial to our grandfathers."

The Klain said it would take its fight to the people before the measure can be brought up in the House next week. The Senate has approved the bill 23 to 3.

Three witnesses, a minister, a contractor and an electrical worker, denied before the committee that the organization had anything to do with recent acts of violence by men in hoods in the Birmingham area.

William Hugh Morris, Birmingham roofing contractor and a governor of the Federated Ku Klux Klans, said adoption of the bill would be "an insult to the men who wore the hood and robe in the '60s and '70s." It is a part of Southern tradition, he declared, and today's Klansmen are "blood descendants of those men who have taken the same name and same robe that they had, for the same reason."

The Rev. Alvin Horn, Talladega County pastor of three Baptist churches, said the Klan "had no part in some of the actions taken in the past several weeks."

"I'd rather be hung from the balcony over the steps (of the Capitol building here) where Jefferson Davis was inaugurated, than have the masks taken from the Klan," he said.

Bhm. 6-23-49

A. D. Driver, a Klansman since 1923 and an employe of an electric company, said it was his duty to screen applicants for membership. He makes sure they have no criminal record, are of good character and atend church, Driver said.

Morris said the Klan objected to "honky tonk operators, common brier-patch prostitutes and people of that type," but had committed no floggings and would "disband if it is proved guilty of any crime while wearing the hood."

First In 25 Years

The Advertiser

EDITOR, THE ADVERTISER—A June 28 U. P. dispatch from Montgomery says that Alabama passed the first Southern legislation to dehood the Ku Klux Klan. That is an incorrect statement of fact.

Sat. 7-2-49

The Alabama law was modeled after Louisiana's law which put the Klan out of business in 1924, 25 years ago. Alabama deserves credit for this law for being the first Southern state in 25 years to follow the example of Louisiana.

Montgomery, Ala.

Winnfield, La. J. E. OGLESBY

Gov... Orders Pa... To End Raids By Hood Men

Bham News

The Highway Patrol had orders today from Gov. James E. Folsom to do whatever it takes to end raids and attacks by hooded men. Folsom called on the patrol to give assistance to any Alabamian who reports trouble from a hooded gang.

Ordering the highway police to find out who is back of the hooded attacks, the governor pointed out he has no funds from the Legislature for private investigators.

Gov. Folsom asked any citizen seeing a hooded mob to notify the Highway Patrol and sheriff's office immediately and, if unable to reach them to report to the nearest newspaper or radio station and ask that the patrol be notified.

He did not refer to hooded men as the Ku Kux Klan but Atty. Gen. Albert Carmichael, in a blistering statement, named the Klan.

The attorney general promised a thorough investigation of two calls made Friday night by hooded men in Jefferson County and called them "depredations committed by the Ku Klux Klan."

He called the hooded and robed men "mobsters" and announced he was placing five investigators in Jefferson County to go fully into the two incidents.

Meanwhile a legislative bill to unmask the Ku Klux Klan "or any like organization" is pending in the State Senate.

State Sen. Henry H. Mize, of Tuscaloosa, is sponsoring a measure which would prohibit the wearing of masks in Alabama—but would not interfere with children at Halloween parties or Mardis Gras festivals.

6-13-49

ARMED and hooded men invaded the home of Mrs. Hugh McDanal, reportedly struck her twice and threatened her and burned a fiery cross on the front lawn of the 42-year-old woman.

Hooded men, also armed, invaded a small restaurant in Brookside the same night, warned "to keep down the niggers," and told Marshlar they were "tired of the damned Catholics running the town."

Mrs. McDanal has called for a federal investigation of the affair.

* * *

SOLICITOR Emmett Perry said he would ask that the Jefferson County Grand Jury be called back into session to probe the night riding.

Sheriff Holt McDowell has placed three deputies on the case.

Bankhead Bates, public safety director, also has placed state's investigators in Jefferson County "to find out who is responsible."

"There's no place for mob rule in Alabama and it seems as if they're trying to take the law into their own hands.

* * *

MRS. McDANAL's request for a federal investigation is expected to bring about an FBI probe of the affair, but as is customary in such cases, federal officials declined to comment.

Atty. Gen. Carmichael's statement follows in full:

"The depredations committed by the Ku Klux Klan in Jefferson County recently are of the same kind these mobsters and gangsters always commit. They are a brave lot—here we have chivalry of a new kind: that of striking a sick woman over the head. The depredationists who did that brave deed must certainly feel the part of a hero.

"These Knights of the White Robe and white mask are as far from decency as the East is from the West. These brave knights require the cover of darkness and absolute concealment of their identity to hide their villainous and scoundrelly acts of depravity.

"The Ku Klux Klan represents the antithesis of decency. If fairness and justice are on one side the Ku Klux Klan is on the other.

"Those who direct and finance the Klan do not live in shacks, and they do not wear white robes. Neither are these manipulators and string-pullers particularly interested in any particular act of villainy done by the poor, duped, misguided ham actors, who ride about under the cover of darkness to perpetrate their fiendish and cowardly act upon helpless victims.

"While these manipulators and rect and require the perpetration rect an dreqiure the perpetration of these dastardly and cowardly acts, these manipulators also are interested in bagging bigger game—that of keeping the race issue (their stock in trade) red hot.

6-13-49

Atlanta Ga Constitution

Associated Press Wirephoto

NAMES SPECTATOR AS "HOOD"—Sally Burton, 17 (right), halted her testimony at a flogging trial in Montgomery, Ala., yesterday to identify a man in the courtroom audience as a member of the robed band that raided her home. A few minutes later the man, R. J. Sexton, was called on charges he slapped Sally's mother, Mrs. Irene Burton (face hidden, left) in the witness room. (Story on Page 2)

Trial To Open In Night Riding

Advertiser Wed. 10-26-49

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., Oct. 25—(AP)—The first of 18 men indicted in connection with activity of robed and hooded night riders will face trial Wednesday.

Placed on the docket are cases of nine men charged with floggings while masked. They will be tried separately. The other cases will be set later.

Deputy Solicitor Cecil M. Deason said no decision has been made yet as to which case will be called first.

An attache of the prosecutor's office said, however, that Coleman (Brownie) Lollar probably will be tried first. Lollar was indicted by the spring grand jury on five counts of flogging while masked and one count of first degree burglary.

Lollar, a former special deputy sheriff, turned in his commission after state investigators found him guarding automobiles outside a Ku Klux Klan meeting in nearby Adamsville.

The indictments were returned after an outbreak of flogging and cross burning in the district early this year. Most of the cases were reported in the hill country west of Birmingham.

Ku Klux Klan officials denied members of the order had anything to do with the mob violence.

Victim Of Mob Names Attacker

Advertiser

Ex-Special Deputy Linked To KKK In B'ham Trial

10-27-49 Montgomery Ala.

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., Oct. 26—(AP)—An attractive woman victim of hooded hoodlums today identified Coleman A. (Brownie) Lollar, former special deputy sheriff, as one of the masked men who raided her home last June 10.

The witness was Mrs. Edna McDanal, 42-year-old grandmother whose home was broken into by robed men who forced her to watch a cross burning on her lawn.

The raid was linked directly to the Ku Klux Klan by another witness.

Lollar Called Klansman

Boyd Killingsworth, who said he was a member of the Adamsville Klavern, told the court the hooded men drove to the McDanal home after a meeting of the Klavern. He testified he drove one of the automobiles in the procession.

Killingsworth further testified he had seen Lollar at Klan meetings in Adamsville but could not say if he was there the night the McDanal raid took place.

Lollar is charged with flogging while masked in the McDanal case. That offense is punishable by imprisonment from one to 10 years. He also is charged with the same offense in four other cases, and with first degree burglary.

The burglary indictment is based on charges of breaking and entering an occupied dwelling at night. It is a capital charge under Alabama law.

First To Face Trial

The ex-special officer is the first to face trial of 18 men indicted by grand juries here after a wave of masked mob violence last May and June.

Mrs. McDanal pointed out Lollar as one of 10 or 12 men who broke into her home. She recognized Lollar, she said, "when I pulled his hood up to look at his face."

The witness said the men jerked a shotgun from her hands, hit her twice with "I don't know what," and dragged her outside.

"All of them had pistols," she testified. "They threatened to whip me, and accused me of selling whisky and renting my rooms to couples."

Mrs. McDanal said she was forced to watch a cross burning on her front lawn.

Lollar, who lives in the coal mining community of Praco, 20 miles west of Birmingham, denied to reporters that he was a member of the Klan.

Girl Identifies Trial Spectator As A Flogger

Advertiser

Mother Of Victim Slapped In Court By Accused Man

Fri. 10-28-49 Montgomery Ala.

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., Oct. 27—A young girl victim of masked mobsters halted her testimony in a flogging trial here today to point out a man in the courtroom audience as a member of the robed band which raided her home.

Sally Burton, 17, made the identification while testifying at the trial of Coleman A. (Brownie) Lollar, former special deputy sheriff.

The man she identified was R. J. Sexton. He then was sent out of the courtroom as a prospective witness.

Mother Is Slapped

A few minutes later, Sexton was back for a contempt of court hearing. Miles Denham, reporter for The Birmingham Age-Herald, testified Sexton slapped Mrs. Irene Burton, mother of Sally, in the witness room.

Judge Robert J. Wheeler sentenced Sexton to 24 hours in jail for contempt. The sentence was stricken when Sexton wept and apologized.

Miss Burton had testified she recognized Lollar's voice in the mob which came to her home at Dora last June 3, took six people from it into the woods and whipped three of them.

She turned to Judge Wheeler to say:

"Judge, I recognize another man in that mob. He is sitting in the aisle."

Judge Wheeler asked her to point him out.

Walks To Sexton

The witness left the stand, walked into the crowd and put her hand on Sexton's shoulder. "Here he is," she said.

Miss Burton told the court she, her sister, Billie Faye Burton, 19, and Willie Coogler were forced to watch the masked men flog her mother, Mrs. Irene Burton, and two men. The men who were whipped were Troy Morrison and Bill Lowery, she testified.

The state rested in late afternoon.

A parade of 12 character witnesses for Lollar followed. All testified he was of good character.

Officers Guard Trial

Uniformed highway patrolmen and a reinforced guard of deputy sheriffs patrolled halls outside the courtroom.

The guards were stationed after Solicitor Emmett Perry said a man identified as a Ku Klux Klan officer was found carrying a pistol.

Alabama Witness Says Ku Klux Klan Beat Grandmother In Raid on Home

Courier-Journal Louisville Ky. 10-27-49

Trials Begun In Floggings

From Wire Dispatches.

Birmingham, Oct. 26.—A witness testified at the opening of the Alabama flogging trials today that the Ku Klux Klan carried out a hooded raid against a 42-year-old grandmother last June 10.

It was the first positive linking of the Klan with the series of summer mob outbreaks which so aroused the state that the Legislature passed an antimasking law.

The witness was Boyd Killingsworth. He admitted he was a member of the raiding party which descended on the rural home of Mrs. Hugh McDanal. But he denied that he earlier identified the first defendant. Coleman A. "Brownie" Lollar, as being present.

Killingsworth said he went to a Klan meeting at Adamsville, west of Birmingham, that night and later "we stopped by the highway and robed up."

Helped Direct Traffic.

A parade of about 30 cars with two or three men in each car first burned a cross in front of a cafe, "then went over to the Jasper highway and stopped in front of the McDanal house," Killingsworth said.

"I helped to direct traffic," Killingsworth said.

Mrs. McDanal earlier had testified that hooded men led by defendant Lollar forcibly entered her home, beat her, and dragged her out to watch them burn a cross.

Killingsworth testified that he saw his Klan companions burn a cross "while the woman was standing by."

The witness said Richard Lol-

Associated Press Wirephoto.

COLEMAN A. LOLLAR

Identified as masked raider.

lar, brother of Brownie Lollar, presided over the Adamsville Klan meeting that preceded the raid in his capacity as exalted cyclops of the local chapter.

Testimony Is Read.

Prosecutor Cecil Deason then read what he said was Killingsworth's testimony to the grand jury last July placing Brownie Lollar at the scene.

"I don't remember saying that," Killingsworth testified today.

The trial opened with Mrs. McDanal identifying Brownie Lollar as a member of the mob that visited her. He was the first of 18 defendants called to trial.

Lollar, a former special deputy sheriff, is charged with flogging while masked in the McDanal case. That offense is punishable by imprisonment from one to 10 years. He also is charged with the same offense in four other cases, and with first-degree burglary. The burglary indictment is based on charges of breaking and entering an occupied dwelling at night. It is a capital charge

Associated Press Wirephoto.

MRS. HUGH McDANAL

Tells of raid on home

under Alabama law.

Says Hood Pulled Up.

Mrs. McDanal pointed out Lollar as one of 10 or 12 men who broke into her home. She recognized Lollar, she said, "when I pulled his hood up to look at his face."

The witness said the men jerked a shotgun from her hands, hit her twice with "I don't know what," and dragged her outside.

"All of them had pistols," she testified. "They threatened to whip me, and accused me of selling whisky and renting my rooms to couples."

The case is being heard before Judge Robert J. Wheeler, who sentenced Klan director William Hugh Morris to jail for contempt of court for refusal to produce Klan membership lists. Morris spent 67 days in jail before he wrote a partial list from memory and was released.

Court To Study Klan Leader's Release Plea

Justice Brown, Attorney In Sharp Exchanges Over Contempt Issue

The State Supreme Court left unsettled again yesterday the fate of a Ku Klux Klan leader jailed for refusing to give names of Klan members.

For the second time in three days, the court heard arguments on the appeal of William Hugh Morris, who has been in jail in Birmingham since last Thursday on a contempt of court citation.

Morris, director of the Federated Ku Klux Klan, Inc., refused to make a list of KKK members available to a Jefferson County grand jury which was investigating recent hooded terrorism.

Circuit Judge Robert J. Wheeler then tried to get the information for the jury and Morris again refused. The judge ordered him jailed until he agreed to disclose the membership.

The five Supreme Court justices who heard the appeal yesterday took the question under advisement without announcing a decision or saying when one would come. Morris wants the tribunal to review the entire contempt proceedings and to grant him bond pending the final outcome.

Circuit Judge Wheeler offered to let him out on bail once on condition he would promise to make the membership information available to a new grand jury. The jury that asked for it was discharged last Saturday.

Morris declined and is still in jail.

If the Supreme Court decides it won't review the case, that will end it as far as that tribunal is concerned and in effect will uphold the lower court.

Go Into Records

But if the petition for review, or certiorari, is granted, the Supreme Court will go into the records of the contempt citation at a later date. The question of Morris' release on bond would be decided then, but it would take a separate order to free him from custody.

Yesterday's arguments were the same as those four justices heard Monday before deciding to hold the matter over and let two absent members of the court listen. Only one of them, Justice Robert T. Simpson, was present yesterday. Justice A. B. Foster was still away.

Defense Attorney Hugh Locke, of Birmingham, contended Morris wasn't guilty of contempt in the first place because he was not properly summoned into court and Judge Wheeler therefore had no right to send him to jail.

Locke said previous court decisions have held emphatically that no one can be held in contempt without a chance to defend himself and have legal counsel. Before Judge Wheeler could legally send him to jail, the attorney argued, some charge or affidavit would have to be made by the grand jury.

Even if he had been guilty of contempt, Locke continued, Morris should have been released when the grand jury was dismissed. After that, he said, there was no grand jury for the KKK leader to report to even if he desired.

Deny Contentions

Attorneys for the state disputed both contentions vigorously. They said there was no question about the contempt and cited previous law cases to prove their point.

As to the time limit, Asst. Atty. Gen. Taylor Hardin pointed to a provision in the law that says a defiant witness can be held in jail until a later session of court. And, he added, a grand jury is part of the court.

The hearing was enlivened from time to time by sharp exchanges between Locke and Presiding Justice Joel B. Brown. At one point the attorney told the white-haired jurist his reasoning "evades every point of law that has anything to do with this case."

Justice Brown insisted repeatedly that the Morris case to him was one of "outright defiance of the courts' authority."

At another point the presiding justice bristled with this remark:

"What you say is that a witness has got to get up and whip the judge before he can be held in contempt."

That was prompted by Locke's reference to a U. S. Supreme Court decision which said contempt proceedings must be given a hearing except when the misconduct is so flagrant it disturbs the court's procedure and dignity.

The attorney finally closed that argument with the observation that he might get in contempt of court himself.

Newspaper Code Used By Legion Fighting Hoods

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. - The General Gorgas Post 1 of the American Legion, here, Alabama's largest with 2,109 members, has been using the "secret witness" code system developed by the Chicago Sun-Times for the protection of tipsters on crimes, to run down the hooded gangs which have been terrorizing Jefferson County with a series of night floggings.

Within 48 hours after a special committee headed by Carle Wells, 28, former Seebee and 1950 vice-commander-elect of the post, published the plan backed by a fund of $2,500 in rewards, 10 letters were received.

"Some of them contained names," Wells said. "We are turning over all of the information to the FBI and to State investigators sent here by Governor Jim Folsom."

The local American Legion post declared war against the hooded night raiders after Billy Guyton Stovall, 31 year old white Navy veteran, was seized at his home by the masked terrorists and horse whipped. The post invited Stovall to appear before its executive committee and a strong resolution condemning the outrages was adopted by the post.

The aroused Legionnaires then organized a 12 man Veterans Committee Against Crime and Violence. Represented on it are the American Legion, the 40 and 8, the VFW, DAV, the AMVETS and the Jewish War Veterans of Birmingham. This committee is now working to secure the necessary added manpower, funds, material and equipment for Sheriff Holt A. McDowell to enable him to suppress lawlessness.

Post Commander-elect John S. Foster also testified before the Alabama state legislature at Montgomery no behalf of a bill to unmask the Ku Klux Klan and other hooded orders. Both the State Senate and House passed this legislature.

From Where I Stand

People Of State Not

Ready To Give Up Crusade For Order

BY VULCAN

The greatest ally for poor government, or misguided government or delayed justice, is public apathy.

I wonder if the people are ready to be lulled to sleep now after the fine and vigorous start to clean out lawlessness in Jefferson County and Alabama?

VULCAN

When public wrath is aroused because nothing is being done to correct bad conditions some folks want to yell "hysteria." What is there "hysterical" about good men and good women aroused to the point where they demand action to remedy bad conditions?

Do-nothingism, high-sounding platitudes and side-stepping of tough issues too often have been substituted for courageous action in critical times.

If I know the people they are not ready to turn from the crusade to put an end to mobism in their state—not now!

On Picking Juries

The Jury Commission in our county, the circuit judges who empanel juries—and the citizens who are called to jury duty, may well take the Summer Grand Jury as a case in point.

It so happened that a Klan member was on a Grand Jury that had been charged to investigate night riding activities—a jury that was investigating the Klan itself.

A man whose civil rights had not been restored after they were taken from him for a federal sentence growing out of a youthful indiscretion years ago, was left on the jury, as well as a man who pleaded illiteracy.

A well-screened Grand Jury would have kept all three off.

But the only way you are going to have good juries is for every man who is called to serve make himself available, instead of pleading to be excused.

Not What It Used To Be

(From The Dothan Eagle)

The Ku Klux Klan isn't what it used to be. It doesn't frighten, politically and otherwise, as it did 25 years ago.

New evidence to that effect piles up every day.

Up in Jefferson County where Grand Juries have been investigating outrages attributed to the K. K. K., the circuit judge who charged the juries has declared that he was a member of the Klan 25 years ago. He didn't brag about it, but volunteered the information, saying he thought the public was entitled to that knowledge.

The solicitor who has been directing the investigations has also made public the fact that he, too, belonged to the Klan back in the '20s. He wasn't bragging either, but felt the people were entitled to the information.

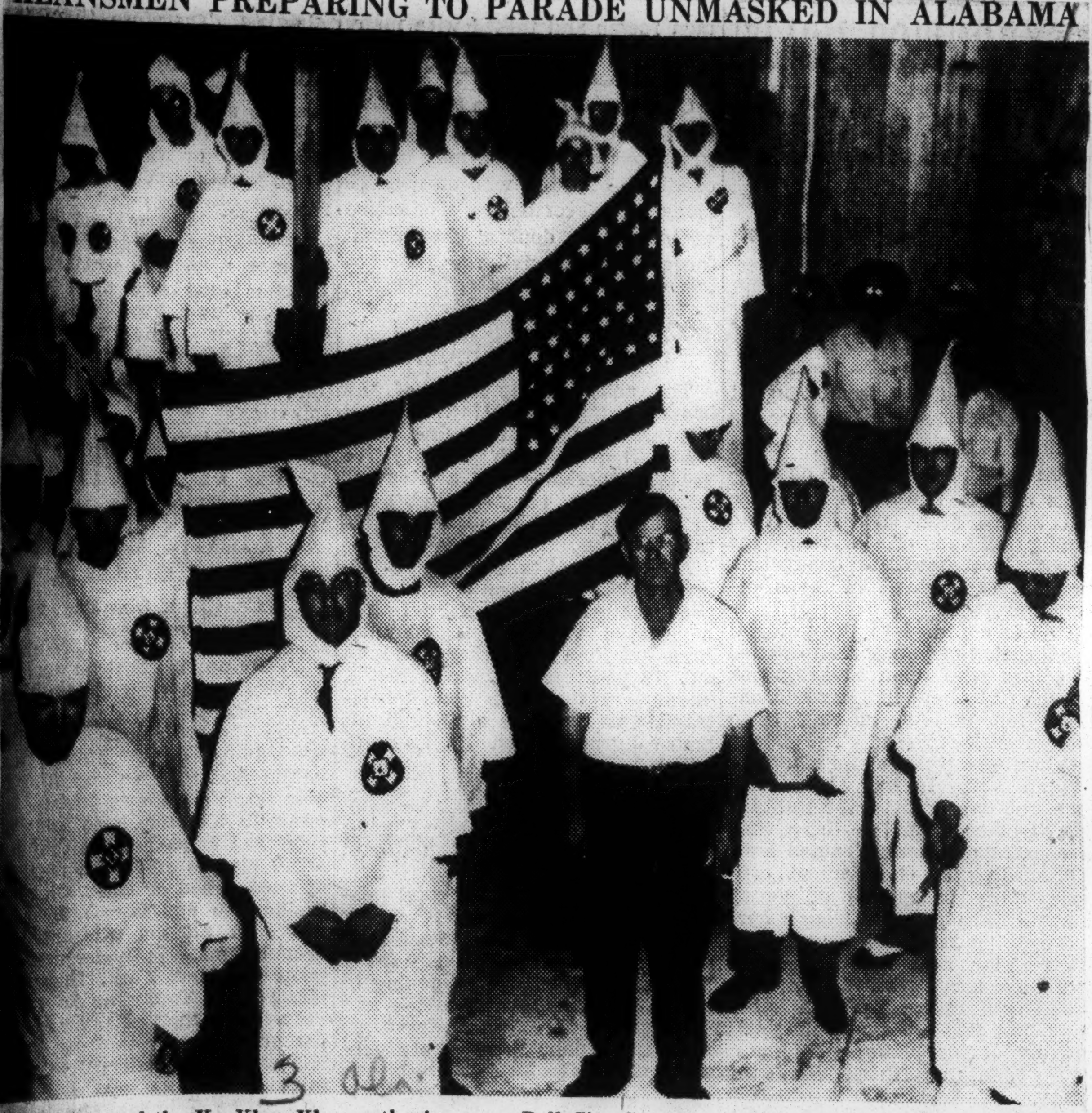
We say this is evidence that the Klan doesn't scare like it used to because here are two men, holding elective offices, admitting former membership and in an apologetic tone—all the while discharging the duty of their office which, in this case, is to investigate violations of the law laid to the Klan.

If the Klan could still frighten people as it once did, there would be no officeholders apologizing for former affiliation with the order and at the same time holding the Klan's feet to the fire. The Klan simply isn't what it used to be as a political force and that is all to the good.

This is not to say that if the Jefferson County judge and Jefferson County solicitor were members of the Klan now they would soften their punches, or that they would even be members while holding public office. It merely underscores the fact that if the Klan was what it used to be, the Klan would see to it that men who prosecute the K. K. K. in the courts would never get elected in the first place.

So long as we have court officials who do their duty, as these in Birmingham are doing despite past affiliations with the K. K. K. the Klan will never resurge to power.

KLANSMEN PREPARING TO PARADE UNMASKED IN ALABAMA



Members of the Ku Klux Klan gathering near Pell City Saturday night before the start of a motorcade through the town. They wore no covering on their faces, in compliance with a new Alabama law.

Associated Press Wirephoto

PELL CITY, Ala., Aug. 21 (AP) —A highly advertised parade of 1,000 members of the Ku Klux Klan faded to a mere trickle here last night.

About 2,500 spectators were on hand for the big show. Dr. Lycurgus Spinks, 64-year-old minister and Klan speaker, had estimated 1,000 Klansmen would march through the town.

Only fifty-eight robed members, without masks, turned out. They marched through this textile town's main street to the court house for Dr. Spinks' address. A light rain fell on them.

The group met on a mountainside outside Pell City. At the assembly point a Klavern chief, who did not identify himself, told the members to go unmasked as required by a new Alabama law. He warned them not to take exception to any remarks made by the crowd.

"Just remember who they are," he said, "and we will take care of them later."

Prior to the parade a sixteen-car motorcade moved in and out of town. A couple of Klansmen, waving American flags, perched on the fenders of the lead car.

Mrs. William Hugh Morris, wife of Alabama's Klan leader, participated in the motorcade. Her husband did not attend. He has been in jail thirty-four days for refusing to obey a court order to produce Klan records.

A Klan official said representatives of Klans in Birmingham, Talladega, Gadsden and Tarrant City were on hand to help the newly organized local Klavern in its recruiting drive.

Klan Leader's Appeal Denied

Supreme Court Refuses To Review Contempt Of Court Order

The State Supreme Court yesterday refused to open the cell door for Alabama's jailed Ku Klux Klan chief.

The high court declined to review a contempt of court order under which William Hugh Morris has spent 32 days in a Birmingham jail.

He was committed for failing to turn the white-robed order's secret files over to a grand jury investigating floggings and cross burnings by hooded night riders there.

The five judges who heard his second appeal for review of lower court proceedings were unanimous in turning it down.

Little more than a month ago the court split, 4-2 in a decision not to interfere with the Jefferson County (Birmingham) circuit court jailing order.

Withholds Records

Morris, 44, a portly and balding contractor, was jailed July 7 for contempt of court after he refused to produce membership records of the Ku Klux Klan.

Later he was released on bond when he promised to make a search for the records which he claimed were stolen from his home during his first 16 days in jail.

Circuit Judge George Lewis Bailes ordered him back to jail Aug. 2 when he said he was unable to find them or prepare a new list. Morris' bond was also forfeited.

In making public its latest decision, the state's highest tribunal announced that a request by Morris' attorney, Hugh A. Locke of Birmingham, for rehearing of the first petition has also been denied.

Shortly after the decision was announced, Morris sent word from his cell in the Jefferson County jail he would have no comment.

To Continue Fight

Locke said the fight would be continued for the KKK chieftain's release.

When asked if his client would make another effort to find the files, Locke said Morris has already declared he cannot deliver them because they have been lost.

He denied at the hearing that Morris has refused to furnish the membership records, since the first supreme court ruling was made.

On the contrary, he said, Morris has been willing to do everything possible to find them.

The supreme court issued no formal opinion along with the decree.

On the petition filed by Morris a brief notation was made as to the court's action. It cited ex parte Wheeler, 213 Ala., 165 southern 547, and other decisions mentioned in it, as authority for the ruling.

Two judges, Thomas S. Lawson and J. Ed Livingston, dissented when the court refused to consider the review petition last month. They went along with the others yesterday.

Chief Justice Lucien D. Gardner, who has been ill several months at his home, and Associate Justice A. B. Foster, now vacationing in North Carolina, did not take part.

The court has been in its annual summer recess but met in special session to hear the Klan leader's appeal. The session was declared ended after the decision was announced.

Klan Groups Of 6 States Join Forces

—Ku Klux Klansmen from six states joined forces today in this first capital of the Confederacy. They invited all other klan groups to come in for one Nation-wide organization of the robed order.

Lycurgus Spinks, white-maned Klan orator from Thomasville, Ala., was chosen imperial emperor, the chief executive office. National headquarters will be in Montgomery.

The united group inaugurated Spinks in a hotel a few blocks from the Capitol building in which the Alabama Legislature recently passed an anti-masking law.

Spinks and the 40 to 50 KKK officials at the meeting adopted a rule against the wearing of masks in public. Only Spinks was unmasked at the hotel, however.

Spinks said the new Knights of the Ku Klux Klans of America starts with 265,000 members. He said they are principally in Alabama, Mississippi, Tennessee, Arkansas, Missouri and Louisiana.

Klan groups joining were listed as the Independent Klans, Seashore Klans, Ozark Klans, Star Klans, River Valley Klans and Allied Klans.

There was no mention here of the attacks on the robed order by Alabama officials in recent weeks.

Not included in the groups joining today was the Federated Ku Klux Klans, Inc., principal target of the Alabama officials.

Spinks said he had asked William Hugh Morris, head of the Federated Klan at Birmingham, to come in but he was not represented today. Morris now is in jail at Birmingham for refusing Klan membership lists to a county grand jury.

Also missing from the roster of Klan groups joining were the KKK organizations in Georgia, the national headquarters of the order which flourished in the 1920's.

Spinks said the Klan would start an immediate organizing campaign "in all the 48 States."

Klan To Parade Without Hoods

Pell City Demonstration Saturday To Give 'KKK's Side'

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., Aug. 18 —(AP)—The Alabama Ku Klux Klan today announced its first public demonstration since passage of the state anti-masking law, will be held Saturday night.

A spokesman said hundreds of members of the secret order would parade afoot in their white robes at Pell City, about 38 miles east of Birmingham.

The Klansmen will march with visors (hoods) lifted in observance of the anti-mask law, the spokesman said. The law, enacted seven weeks ago, provides for a fine of up to $500, and 12 months in jail on conviction.

Pell City Mayor W. T. Starnes said he had not been informed of the parade, but no permit is required by the city.

Lycurgus Spinks, who addressed two recent public meetings called "to give the Klan's side," said he will speak at Pell City after the parade.

The silver-haired Thomasville, Ala., man talked at such gatherings at Tarrant and Tuscaloosa recently, and is scheduled to address another at Talladega Friday night. Klan robes were not worn at those meetings.

Officials of the order have denied its members were involved in the recent wave of mob violence in Alabama. Eighteen men were indicted in Jefferson County for flogging and related charges.

Spinks said the Klan marchers at Pell City would be made up mostly of members of the Klavern there and of four other Klaverns in the area. He said plans called for the robed men to park their cars on the outskirts of town and march two abreast down the main street.

Hooded Mob Inquiry On; Jury Recesses, But Investigators On Job

The News, Birmingham, Ala.
Sun. 7-17-49

Klan Leader's Attorney Declares Case Will Get Rehearing, Or It Will Be Taken To U. S. Supreme Court For Final Ruling

The probe of hooded mobism in Jefferson County continued full steam ahead Saturday even through the Grand Jury is in recess until August 29 unless called back into an earlier session.

Still on the job compiling evidence for presentation to the Grand Jury are the four state investigators assigned to the investigation by Gov. James E. Folsom.

Meanwhile, William Hugh Morris, Klan leader under conviction for contempt of court, is in County Jail while his attorneys ready an appeal to the U. S. Supreme Court.

Developments on all fronts in the investigation of "night-riding" incidents went like this during the past 48 hours:

1. The Summer Grand Jury, organized Monday by Judge Bailes, recessed late Friday. Earlier in the day several members of the Grand Jury had been disclosed to have police records and one member of the body was excused temporarily for having been a member of the Ku Klux Klan in 1947.

* * *

No Indictments

2. A SECOND MEMBER of the Grand Jury was excused permanently from that body after it was disclosed he had served a federal prison sentence and had not regained his citizenship.

3. The Grand Jury foreman asked the court to investigate the Grand Jury itself and to state whether its members were legally fit to serve.

4. No indictments on flogging or terrorism were returned by the Grand Jury which stayed in session five days with a charge to carry on the investigation started by the Spring Grand Jury. That Grand Jury returned 45 indictments against 17 persons as results of its investigation.

5. The Alabama Supreme Court ruled four to two to uphold Circuit Judge Robert J. Wheeler who cited Morris for contempt of court for refusing to produce Klan records before the Grand Jury.

To Ask Rehearing

6. MORRIS' ATTORNEY, Hugh Locke, announced he was moving for a rehearing by the state high court. He said if this is denied the case will be carried to the U. S. Supreme Court.

Saturday Solicitor Emmett Perry gave the "full steam ahead" answer to questions of whether the probe was to continue.

Before recessing, the Grand Jury asked it be called back into session as soon as evidence is available on which indictments could be brought into the floggings.

Solicitor Perry said he would ask the body be called back into session as soon as such evidence is obtained.

He made it clear efforts to clear up all acts of terrorism in the county will not be relaxed while the Grand Jury is out of session.

What move, if any, Morris' attorney might make to get his client out of jail was still not known Saturday.

* * *

Morris Sees Lawyer

LOCKE CONFERRED with Morris in County Jail Saturday and announced that the fight for the Klan leader's freedom "will be continued on all fronts."

Locke did not comment on speculation he would file a petition for a writ of habeas corpus for Morris' freedom.

Meanwhile, State Atty. Gen. Albert Carmichael is expected to file court action in Jefferson County next week to have the Federated Ku Klux Klans, Incoporated, dissolved.

Perry said the Grand Jury has before it an investigation of the Federated Ku Klu Klan.

For a time it was a matter of speculation as to whether a new Grand Jury might have to be called.

After published criticisms of certin members of the Grand Jury, Judge Bailes asked the foreman "Are you here (recessing) because you have been morally disqualified or because you have finished your labors?"

* * *

Labors Finished

THE FOREMAN, Ronald H. Edwards, said his group had finished its labors, including hearing all flogging witnesses brought before it. Foreman Edwards then asked the court to requalify members of the Grand Jury.

Judge Bailes said later he had no intention of reexamining members of the Grand Jury. "Tests of qualifications were made at the time the jury was organized," he said.

The judge told the Grand Jury he considered each member of that body qualified to serve with the exception of the man permanently excused. He said the ex-Klan member, Alexander Brewis, would not deliberate with the Grand Jury when any Klan matters were being considered.

Judge Bailes is expected to act early next week on a petition to have Morris cited for contempt a second time. At the time it was filed, Judge Bailes said he would not act on it until "given a blueprint" by the Alabama Supreme Court.

The motion seeks to have Morris cited for contempt for his refusal to produce Klan records before this second Grand Jury.

Anti-Mask Law Hits Negro Klansmen First

Sat. 8-6-49
Birmingham News

OZARK, Ala., Aug. 6—(AP)—Two self-styled Negro Ku Klux Klansmen were sentenced to jail after pleading guilty Friday to charges of violating Alabama's new anti-masking law.

They are the first to be charged and convicted under the statute, which became law five weeks ago.

A third Negro, Raymond McClendon, 20, was scheduled for trial Saturday afternoon.

Those convicted Friday are Tommie Johnson, 19, and Robert E. Lee Miller, 21. They testified they formed their own Klan with McClendon and three other Negroes. The defendants said they donned white sheets to frighten two Negro girls whom they accused of misconduct.

Mayor Douglas Brown sentenced Johnson to six months in jail and Miller to 60 days. The anti-masking law provides for a fine of up to $500 or 12 months in jail.

Morris' Secret

Fri. 8-5-49
Montgomery Advertiser

It's now as plain as Vulcan's ugly head why Kluxer Hugh Morris has been unwilling for a list of Alabama klansmen to be made public. The fellow just didn't want everybody to know about the Negro klavern of the Klan which has come to light at Ozark, Ala.

Yesterday our front page carried a picture of three of these Negro klansmen [illegible]ey lacked the smart [illegible] the white klansman's sheet and th[illegible]ga-like ele[illegible]ance, but then the Negro element of the Klan hasn't been pacticing as long.

It might seem odd to some that Negroes should become klansmen inasmuch as that organization is dedicated to the perpetuation of White Supremacy. But it is not odd on second thought when you consider that some slaves who became freedmen in the 60's themselves bought and kept slaves, hated Lincoln and ambushed his soldier-liberators.

But although the Negro klansmen of Dale County are new to the order, they seem to be progressing towards 32nd Degree status with admirable quickness by studying after the ways of their white fraternity brothers.

That is, the white klansmen of Jefferson abducted and threatened a white woman in Jefferson County on the charge that she danced off her shoes when they played those jelly roll blues—nude. In Ozark, the imitative Negro kluxers, holding up their end, frightened the daylights out of some Negro women they "caught with white men."

Now that the Klan has both white and colored members, it is to be hoped that in their meetings and rites they will observe Alabama's segregation laws.

RACES:

Toppled Tower

8-8-49

With eighteen white men under indictment for mob violence and William H. Morris, leader of the Alabama Ku Klux Klan, charged with contempt of court, things seemed to be looking up for Negroes in the Birmingham area. Headed by J. Ed Reynolds, 38-year-old white Marine Corps veteran, a Negro group felt secure enough to organize a new radio station, WEDR, to be operated by Negro personnel for Negro patronage. With a 210-foot, $5,000 steel tower already erected, WEDR was scheduled to open Aug. 14.

Last Thursday night a car containing five white men drove up to the new station. Two got out. While Adam White, 33-year-old Negro maintenance man, cowered inside the main building, they sawed through a cable supporting the tower. It wobbled for about ten seconds and then crashed, a heap of twisted girders.

The next dav Revnolds said he and his group would go ahead with their plans anyway. He ordered a new tower and postponed the scheduled opening about two weeks. He said an armed guard would be stationed at the new tower site.

Top Klansman Back In Jail For Contempt

Advertiser
Wed. 8-3-49
Montgomery, Ala.

Morris Claims Records Stolen, Unable To Get New Klavern Files

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., Aug. 2—(AP)—Alabama's top Klansman is back in jail.

A circuit judge today ordered that William Hugh Morris be held until he produces secret records of the white-robed order. The decision said Morris is still in contempt of court for failing to deliver the Klan roster to a grand jury.

Same Citation

Morris, balding, portly Birmingham roofing contractor, previously served 16 days in county jail under the same contempt citation.

The sentence runs indefinitely. Under it, he must remain in jail until he clears himself of the contempt citation by delivering the records.

He claims they have been stolen and he is unable to obtain new ones.

The grand jury, which wants the records for its investigation into violence by hooded mobs here, convened briefly to hear the verdict. It then recessed "subject to instantaneous recall."

18 Indicted

Eighteen men have been indicted on flogging and related charges by this jury and the preceding grand jury.

Morris appeared tired and drawn after the three-day hearing before Judge George Lewis Bailes.

State Atty. Gen. Albert A. Carmichael, who led prosecution

of the case, acclaimed the ruling as a "warning to those who are inclined to trifle with the powers of our court."

To Appeal Ruling

Defense Attorney Hugh Locke said the ruling will be appealed to the state supreme court as quickly as possible. The state court refused to review the case when Morris was in jail before.

The tribunal's decision then said "the door to freedom was open" to Morris any time he wanted to produce the records.

A conditional $500 bond under which Morris had been at liberty since July 23 was ordered forfeited. Morris had signed the bond stipulating that he bring in the files.

Records Stolen, He Says

Morris contended during the hearing that it is physically impossible to produce them. He claimed they were stolen from his home July 21 and that the individual Klaverns can refuse to give him new ones.

He told the court he has asked the grand cyclops of two Klaverns for their records. He said the cyclops had promised to take the request up at their next meeting.

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., Aug. 2 —(AP)—The head of the biggest Ku Klux Klavern in Alabama said tonight he is not in favor of giving a list of Klansmen to the order's jailed chief, William Hugh Morris.

E. E. Campbell, Birmingham, who described himself as cyclops of the Robert E. Lee Klavern No. 1, said he was against turning over the records to Morris.

R. M. Arnott, tourist court operator who said he headed the Bessemer Klan, said that if Morris "wants me to ask the members (for the records), I will at our regular meeting next Tuesday."

Cross Is Burned In Tuscaloosa

TUSCALOOSA, ALA., Aug. 2.—A cross was burned last night in front of a house in Tuscaloosa's Southside. No explanation was advanced by police.

The Tuscaloosa News quoted an eye witness as saying four unmasked men drove up in an auto, took out the cross, set it afire and drove away.

The cross was about three feet tall, solidly made of wood and covered with kerosene-soaked burlap sacking. It was mounted on a wooden base.

Assistant Police Chief Darrell Fitts said it did not appear to be a "prank." The residence where the cross was placed is occupied by white people.

From Where I Stand

Hugh Morris Ought To Recognize Loyalty To State's Higher One

BY VULCAN

I WISH HUGH MORRIS would see the light.

I wish he would recognize this one thing:

Hugh Morris' allegiance to the State of Alabama, his responsibility to the established courts ought to be far greater and far more important than any loyalty he may feel toward the Ku Klux Klan.

It all boils down to this one thing: The State of Alabama is bigger than Hugh Morris and it is bigger than the Klan.

VULCAN

Nobody wants to keep this one man in jail.

Each of the three circuit judges who heard his contempt case gave Morris every opportunity to do the thing that would give him his freedom.

Judge Robert J. Wheeler expressed personal sympathy.

So did Judge Alta L. King.

So did Judge George Lewis Bailes.

Two Grand Juries gave Morris every chance to purge himself of contempt.

And Hugh Morris still has that chance.

He is not in jail for being the boss of the Ku Klux Klan. He is in jail because he defies the courts—the courts set up by you and me to protect the individual and see that justice is done.

If men should be allowed to defy the courts—because they differ with the court's interpretation of the law—then we would have no courts, no law, no government.

Hugh Morris is wrong.

And those who are closest and nearest to him should help him by trying to show him he is wrong.

Klan To Retire Politicians, Says Speaker Spinks

Defiance At Efforts To Dissolve K. K. K. Hurled At Tarrant

A mane-shaking orator for the Ku Klux Klan placed the robed order squarely into politics in a speech last night before a pro-Klan meeting in the Tarrant City Hall.

Dr. Lycurgus Spinks, who bragged that he had been a Klansman for 40 years, hurled defiance at efforts to dissolve the K. K. K.

* * *

THE ONE-TIME CANDIDATE for governor of Mississippi attacked newspapers and promised to retire certain politicians in Montgomery to their country estates."

Spinks, who says he is a Baptist preacher, lists his home as Thomsville, Ala. He said his family has resided in the area since 1912.

With the boast that there are "nearly 7,000 Klansmen in Jefferson County, 30,000 in the state and 1,000,000 in the nation," Spinks said he was going to speak all over Alabama on behalf of the Klan.

He called for "red blooded, white, 100 per cent Americans" to join the Klan. "Begin knocking on the outer door of the first den of the nearest Klavern," he advised.

Spinks said "it is about as much use for the attorney general of this state to try to dissolve the Klan as it would be for him to try to dissolve an alligator or the Rock of Gibraltar."

The speaker made a direct attack on Atty. Gen. A. A. Carmichael and upon the court which held William Hugh Morris, Klan director, in contempt of court.

Spinks said he did not know the judge (Circuit Judge Robert J. Wheeler) "but I feel sorry for him just the same."

* * *

HE SAID that after committing Morris to jail for "failing to violate his oath" that the judge "went home and pretended to be sick."

The speaker's advertised promise to "tell the truth about the Ku Klux Klan and hooded floggings," consisted of a single statement out of the more than two and one-half hour speech.

He said it is "wrong for anybody to disguise themselves in any way and go out and commit a crime.

"I'm willing to help bring such characters to justice," he declared. "If he's a Klansman and is guilty, then he knows what he's going to get from the Klan. He'll get . . . well, he knows."

He continued to say that such a person "will be banished from the Klan—never talk to a Klansman, never eat with a Klansman, buy from a Klansman or sell to a Klansman—I'm telling you it's awful."

Spinks attacked "certain public officials who have said they were once members of the Klan but are not any more."

He said that these men could never say that they were "Klansmen."

He praised Supreme Court Justice Hugo Black for "never having denied or apologized" for his Klan affiliations.

Spinks said that repeated efforts have been made to dissolve the Klan. "We've had the big boys after us," he said.

"Carmichael's taking out after the Klan is the biggest joke in Alabama . . ." he continued.

PREACHER JAILED IN ALA. FLOGGING

BIRMINGHAM, Ala—(INS)— A 46-year-old preacher who allegedly prayed for the victim of a masked flogging at Graysville, Ala., is being held in the Jefferson county jail tonight without bond.

The man was listed as R. C. Lyons, who identified himself as an assembly of God minister. He was arrested by state investigators late Tuesday after a lash victim spotted him in Graysville.

The victim, Jack Alexander, said Lyons was the preacher who came to his house with the hooded men and prayed for him before he was flogged. Alexander said that Lyons asked God to teach the victim what was right.

Alexander also claimed a member of the mob told his mother that they were "members of the Ku Klux Klan."

Lyons, however, denied knowing anything of Klan activities "except what I read in the papers."

Lyons said he was formerly a coal miner, but was "saved by God six years ago, and I've been preaching since then."

3rd Negro Kluxer Gets Jail Sentence

OZARK, ALA., Aug. 6—(AP)—The third member of a self-styled Negro Ku Klux Klan drew a jail sentence on charges of violating Alabama's anti-masking act today.

Mayor Douglas Brown sentenced Raymon McClendon, 20, to 30 days in jail. Yesterday he sentenced Tommie Johnson, 19, to six months, and Robert E. Lee Miller 21, to 60 days.

The Negroes were the first to be charged and convicted under the state anti-masking act, which was enacted five weeks ago after a wave of hooded terrorism.

The Negroes testified they formed their own Klan with three other Negroes. They said they donned sheets to frighten two Negro girls whom they suspected of misconduct.

The statute provides a fine of up to $500, or 12 months in jail.

Three Of Counts Name Floggings, One Burglary

R. C. Lyons Still In Jail; Recess Called By Jurors

Three indictments on charges of flogging while masked and one for first degree burglary have been returned against R. C. Lyons, an unordained Holiness preacher of Graysville.

A Grand Jury called into special session yesterday found the four true bills and recessed at 5 p.m.

Lyons was placed in County Jail on a burglary charge last Tuesday. He was arrested after a flogging victim, Jack Alexander, had identified Lyons as a member of a mob which flogged him.

* * *

THE VICTIM said he could see the face of a man who prayed for him shortly before the lash fell. He said that man was Lyons, and that he was unmasked.

Alexander swore out a warrant against Lyons after he saw the part-time preacher on the streets of Graysville last Sunday.

Lyons has denied that he is a member of the Ku Klux Klan or that he has ever taken part in any flogging.

He has been in jail without bond since his arrest.

The Grand Jury asked to be recessed until Aug. 29, "if not called back into special session sooner."

The body had been in recess one week before it was reconvened.

* * *

CIRCUIT JUDGE GEORGE LEWIS BAILES, who received the partial report, again refused a request by the Grand Jury foreman to "screen each member" to determine if he is qualified for jury service.

He said this should be done to stop criticism that has come to the Grand Jury since it was disclosed some of its members had criminal or misdemeanor records.

Judge Bailes said it would "be an illegal thing" for him to attempt to requalify the jury.

He advised members of the body not to be upset by "irresponsible yammering."

The report said the jury has before it a case of the State of Alabama against the Federated Ku Klux Klan.

There has not been sufficient evidence produced in this investigation on which to base an indictment, the report continued. The Grand Jury still has the case before it, the foreman told the court.

Lyons is the 18th man to be indicted since the probe began of hooded floggings in Jefferson County. There has been a total of 49 indictments.

Klansman Spends 21st Day In Jail

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., Aug. 6 —(AP)—Alabama's portly Klan leader spent his 21st day in jail today. There is no indication that he will win his freedom again in the near future.

William Hugh Morris was returned to the county jail last Tuesday for failing to produce secret records of the white-robe order which a grand jury wants to inspect.

His attorney is preparing an appeal to the state supreme court.

Previously, Morris spent 16 days in jail on the contempt of court citation under which he is being held.

Morris' Time Grows Short For Producing Klan Records

Only a few hours stand between Klan Boss William Hugh Morris and the court hearing that will decide whether he will go free or return to jail.

Judge George Lewis Bailes at 9:30 a.m. Monday will open Circuit Court to:

1. Give the Klan leader a chance to purge himself by furnishing information to a Grand Jury.
2. Hear testimony to decide whether it is "physically impossible" for Morris to make good his promise to deliver evidence to the Grand Jury.

If Morris purges himself by furnishing evidence asked by the Grand Jury his sentence to jail for contempt to court will be ended.

If Judge Bailes should rule that Morris cannot possibly furnish the information asked by the Grand Jury he will go free.

* * *

ATTY. HUGH LOCKE, who has carried on a determined but losing court battle thus far in behalf of Morris, bases his plea for Morris' freedom on the assumption that the Klansman cannot produce the Klan records because they were stolen.

Morris was not available for comment Saturday.

It was assumed that he was visiting officers of the four Jefferson County klaverns seeking to get oral information to deliver to the Grand Jury.

Solicitor Emmett Perry and Atty. Gen. Albert A. Carmichael say that Morris can purge himself and win freedom by getting and delivering oral evidence to the Grand Jury.

MORRIS TOLD the Grand Jury last week that he was boss of the Federated Ku Klux Klan and that it was within his power to get information, records and other data.

But when he was asked directly to go out and gather this information and bring it back to the Grand Jury, he became evasive.

The roofing contractor and long-time Klansman agreed to bring Klan evidence to the Grand Jury when he signed bond after spending 16 days in County Jail for contempt of court.

But while he was in jail the Morris home at Gardendale was reported ransacked. Morris reported the Klan records stolen. On Friday he told the Grand Jury he believed "Alabama's No. 1 Communist" stole the records.

* * *

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL and the solicitor told Judge Bailes that the theft of the Klan records should not relieve Morris of his responsibility to give Klan evidence.

The state prosecutors asked that Morris go to the various Klan officials and get from them the information wanted by the Grand Jury.

Atty. Locke was insistent that he be given time to prepare for a hearing on the contempt case.

Judge Bailes delayed the hearing from Friday until Monday but with the announcement that he was more interested in giving Morris time to get the evidence wanted by the Grand Jury than he was for Atty. Locke to prepare a defense in the hearing.

A. A. CARMICHAEL, attorney-general of Alabama, yesterday denied that he has ever been a member of the Ku Klux Klan.

Klan Tie Laid To Carmichael By Klan Chief

Attorney General Says

Morris' Charge Lacks Foundation In Fact

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., Aug. 4—(AP) — Alabama's Klan leader charged from his jail cell today that Attorney General Albert A. Carmichael is a former Klansman.

Portly William Hugh Morris issued a lengthy handwritten statement asserting that an investigation of hooded terrorism has turned into a "Klan witch hunt."

Morris alleged that Carmichael joined the Ku Klux Klan at Brewton, Ala., in the early 1920s, and was a Klansman for four years.

The statement asserted Carmichael withdrew "when it became apparent to him that there was no political reward awaiting his pleasure."

(The attorney general told newsmen at Washington that Morris' statement is wholly without foundation in fact. "I have never been a member of the Klan, am not now a member of the Klan, and will never be a member of the Klan," he said. "I have in season and out of season opposed all versions of the Klan for the past 30 years.")

Morris was returned to jail Tuesday after failing to produce secret records of the white-robed order for a grand jury investigating hooded bands. Morris said in his statement that three of 18 men indicted by the grand jury are klansmen.

Theft Claimed

He already had served 16 days in jail under a contempt of court citation for failure to produce the records. He claimed they were stolen while he was in jail.

He was released on conditional bond to produce them. Circuit Judge George Lewis Bailes revoked the $500 bond and returned him to jail Tuesday on his failure to do so.

Morris criticized Carmichael and Solicitor Emmett Perry by name, and said he intended to include Judge Bailes. Judge Bailes and Perry admitted during the investigation that they had been Klan members in the past, but said they no longer were in the organization.

Morris repeated his protests that he is unable to produce the Klan records. He charged in his statement that Carmichael and Perry had made it impossible for him to satisfy a court order directing him to bring them before the jury.

Peeping Tom Claimed

He accused Carmichael of "Peeping Tom tactics" by allegedly ordering a dictaphone placed in a Klavern meeting place at Adamsville, Ala.

Morris said he had the dictaphone in his possession, and was prepared to prove its ownership at any time.

The Klan leader charged that after the secret records were allegedly stolen from his home, the state attorneys took "quick advantage" of the situation by calling him back before the grand jury "without benefit of council."

There he alleged that he was "bombarded" with questions, "so phrased and designed that my answers to them would not only tend to show my ability to do so but my unwillingness to comply with the court order as well."

"The truth of the matter is that no matter how much power I or any one else has in this order no new list of membership is possible to complete with any degree of accuracy unless the members are completely willing and cooperative themselves.

"Any person with any knowledge of any secret fraternal order of any kind will agree with me when I say that any man belonging to any secret order . . . would be faced with a physical impossibility in proving the membership of any person if that person was unwilling to admit membership."

Boss Klan William Hugh Morris Begins 22nd Day In County Jail

Ku Klux Klan Boss William Hugh Morris Sunday began his 22nd day in County Jail for contempt of court.

And the K. K. K. captain is discovering the lockup after awhile becomes irksome. A jail cot can't compare with a comfortable couch.

At first it was okeh. Kluxers acclaimed their kleagle. They applauded when he told the court Klan records are "sacred." He claimed he could never disclose their contents to the Grand Jury.

* * *

COMMITTED TO THE County lockup July 7 for refusing to give up a Klan roster list, he soon began to receive candy, flowers and cards from klaverns in and out of the county.

Callers gave words of encouragement. They told him he was doing the right thing. That's what they said—from the right side of the cell.

There is one thing you can do lots of in jail. That's thinking. The way things have been going the past week, Mr. Morris needed time for thinking.

From July 3 to July 23 he was in jail. He got out on a conditional bond. He signed an agreement, in effect, he would return before the Grand Jury with the records.

* * *

THAT'S THE WAY it stood last Sunday. His time was his own then. Of course, he had a court fight coming up Monday — but he expected to show his Klan records were stolen from his home.

Monday he went to court. His wife and other witnesses told how his home was ransacked—and the records taken. Then he took the stand to say he could not purge himself of contempt by producing the records, because he couldn't find them.

He said he could not get his fellow Klansmen to cooperate in getting a new list. He couldn't even recall the full name of any of the 7,000 K. K. K. men in the county other than officers.

* * *

CIRCUIT JUDGE George Lewis Bailes took the matter under consideration. Tuesday he sent the Klan boss back to jail.

He said he had to, for two reasons: Morris had not met conditions of his bond, and he had not shown "to the satisfaction of this court" he was unable to purge himself.

After the verdict, Morris kissed his wife, gave her the keys to his car, and headed for the jail. He would see no one, but promised a statement on his arrest.

Wednesday dragged by.

Thursday crept along. After long consideration, he gave newsmen a six-page interpretation of reasons for his jailing.

He claimed State Atty. Gen. Albert A. Carmichael is an ex-Klansman. Mr. Carmichael promptly denied it.

Probate Judge Tom Garner, veteran of many a political battle in Jefferson County, will talk politics before the Fairfield Civitan Club Tuesday night.

He will tell the club how politics operate on city, county and state levels in Alabama.

The program was arranged by the club's public affairs committee to give the members more information on how their political affairs are operated.

The meeting will be held in the newly air conditioned dining room of the Fairfield City Hall.

TALKS POLITICS—Tom Garner.

The Law Is Supreme

The William Hugh Morris contempt of court case has raised some very fundamental questions. Are the membership rolls of any organization beyond the reach of a Grand Jury or court? Does any obligation of a citizen to an organization take precedence over his obligation to the law?

Morris, after spending about two weeks in jail on a contempt charge for refusing to produce membership records for the Jefferson County Grand Jury, obtained his liberty by signing a conditional bond, promising to make the records available. Meantime, it had been reported that the records had been removed from the Morris home.

The Supreme Court, in upholding the Circuit Court's order that Morris be jailed for contempt until he purged himself by complying with the demand for the records, set forth some basic principles. These are principles which every citizen should understand. It is important, in view of the Morris case, that they be well pondered by all Alabamians. We call special attention to certain points in the majority opinion of the court written by Justice Simpson and concurred in by Justices Brown, Foster and Stakely. Justices Livingston and Lawson dissented, but, the majority opinion pointed out, they dissented on one point only—whether the contempt charged was direct or indirect.

Thurs. 7-28-49

* * *

The justices were agreed, the opinion said, that if the contempt was direct and of a character to disrupt the administration of justice and tended to undermine the court's authority if not summarily dealt with, the court was vested with the power of summary punishment.

"It is not open to the slightest question," the opinion says, "but that the conduct of the petitioner in refusing to respond to the demands of the Grand Jury and later to the order of the court in open court in the presence of the Grand Jury was of that type of misconduct, if a direct contempt, as would authorize immediate action by the court. So it seems to us the only question of disagreement is whether or not the contempt was in the presence of the court. . . ." The majority, of course, held that it was.

The majority opinion points out that the whole court was in agreement that the Grand Jury had the right to know who the Klan officers and members were and that Morris did not have the right to withhold the information. All the justices agreed also, the opinion said, "that the contumacious witness could be required to report the matter to the next session of the Grand Jury."

This passage from the opinion expresses clearly and forcefully a very basic and important principle: "The first duty of every citizen is allegiance to the constitution and laws of the state and nation and the lawful judgments and decrees of court. . . . And this loyalty cannot be supplanted by self-assumed allegiance to a private fraternal or other corporation organized under the statutes of this state. Only privileged communications and facts made so by law or lawful government regulations are protected from disclosure."

To hold to the contrary is to fall into the fundamental misconception of Klan thinking—that, under certain conditions, the law takes second place.

Voice Of The People

Defense Of The Klan

To the Editor:

This is my first letter to the editor, but as I feel so strongly on the subject of the K. K. K. I want to express my own opinion.

There are two sides to any question but only the unfavorable one about the K. K. K. has been publicized to any extent.

I am fully in favor of law and order as any fair-minded citizen is, but there are times when "law and order" do not always seem to be sufficient.

Wed. 7-20-49

The first time this was so very evident was at the time the K. K. K. was formed during the Reconstruction. Agitators of the North were trying, and with a great deal of success, to promote hatred between the races. While that subject seems to be a perennial one, it depends largely upon a false stirring up. Now, after World War II, it has reached an international scope.

My contention is that as we are supposed to exercise parental discipline instead of hollering for an officer, so, too, do we have a community obligation.

As The News pointed out in one case of recent K. K. K. activities—just a warning, by the way—the young person had been arrested twice for vagrancy but was turned free. What good was accomplished by the arrests?

As to the masks being worn, therein lies the K. K. K.'s greatest power with the least damage.

The psychology of the unknown strikes more terror than the lash, and has the greatest effect on adult delinquents.

Finally, as I prayed for the good being done by the underground workers in some of the warring countries, I now give thanks for the feeling of security given us by the truly Southern American manhood represented by the K. K. K. MRS. FRANK FERGUSON.

Gardendale, Ala., Route 1.

Klan Members Identified by Insignia At 4 Floggings, Alabama Reveals

Times. Thurs. 7-21-49

Link 'Positive,' Assistant Attorney General Declares—Grand Jury Is Recalled as Beating of 2 More Men Is Reported

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., July 20 (UP)—An Alabama official said today that Ku Klux Klan members had been identified by the insignia on their "bedsheet" uniforms as participants in four of the recent floggings in the Birmingham area.

Taylor Harden, Assistant State Attorney General reported the Klan's connection with the outrages at a conference with the Jefferson County (Birmingham) legislative delegation in Montgomery.

Seventeen persons have been indicted and arrested in connection with terrorism in Jefferson County. An eighteenth man, a preacher who allegedly acted as "chaplain" for floggings, was jailed without bond today.

At the same time, Circuit Judge Alta King recalled the Jefferson Grand Jury for a renewed investigation "including floggings."

Attorney General Albert A. Carmichael called the Jefferson County delegation and four Birmingham circuit judges to a conference today to discuss offering a local bill to revoke the Klan charter in Jefferson County.

Identification Called Positive

This, Mr. Carmichael said, would be much simpler than a long court proceeding to revoke the charter on a state-wide basis. Then Mr. Harden broke in to say:

"We don't want anything said here to embarrass the prosecution of these cases (against the seventeen indicted in Birmingham) But there has been positive identification to conect the Federated Ku Klux Klan of Alabama with four flogging cases.

"These indentifications definitely involve the Ku Klux Klan in these floggings.

"There has been definite identification of regalia and personnel of the Klan in these lashings."

Judge King called the grand jury, which will convene Friday, back into session in Birmingham as a new flogging was reported, the first since a mass outbreak of night-riding depredations tapered off after the state passed an anti-masking bill.

S. G. Bailey, 25 years old, of Goodwater, told Sheriff John A. McEwen of Coosa County that he and a Negro were tied to the same tree and flogged last night.

The current grand jury, according to a disclosure last week, included one recent member of the Ku Klux Klan and an ex-convict. Judge George Lewis Bailes explained that the Klansman would be excused during any investigation into hooded violence and that the ex-convict had been dismissed from jury service.

After that, Judge Bailes himself admitted he also was formerly a Klansman. Solicitor Emmett Perry, who will prosecute the terrorist suspects, said he was, too, at one time, years ago.

Bailey told the Sheriff that he recognized one of his attackers, but he refused to identify the man for the present. He identified the other flogged man as S. J. Thomas, a Negro farm student studying under the GI Bill of Rights.

[The Associated Press reported that Bailey said he was positive his assailants were not Klansmen. "I'm a member of the Klan myself," Bailey asserted.]

Officials And The Klan

Wed. 7-20-49

The acknowledgement of Judge George Lewis Bailes and Solicitor Emmett Perry that they were members of the Ku Klux Klan 24 years ago is a piece of information that the public should be glad to have. It is good also to get the declaration by Sheriff Holt McDowell that he is not now and never has been a member of the Ku Klux Klan.

The public is entitled to know the Klan connections, if any, of law enforcement officers or court officials. That is so because the Klan itself is under fire in the present situation.

The Jefferson County Grand Jury has the Klan under investigation. Its probe of the Klan is a part of the investigation of mob lawlessness and night-riding which Judge Bailes charged it to make. Under the circumstances, the investigation is bound to embrace the Klan. The hooded organization cannot avoid responsibility for encouraging, directly or indirectly, these lawless actions. The fact that a high official of the Klan is under arrest for refusing to reveal Klan records to the Grand Jury makes the organization a part of the current probe.

The Klan—and that includes all its members—is under suspicion. Connections of any law enforcement official with the Klan have become a matter of public concern.

But Judge Bailes and Solicitor Perry are not now members of the Klan. They were many years ago, at a time when the Klan was a strong political force, and many realistic persons with political ambitions joined it without approving of it.

It is the current thinking and actions of law enforcement officials that are of great importance. Associations of a quarter of a century ago will be readily forgiven by the public, if doing the job today justifies that feeling.

SEVEN MORE TELL OF HOODED RIDER BRUTAL BEATINGS

Woman, Girls, Men Herded From Homes, Death Threatened

Seven new names are added today to the list of victims of hooded and robed night riders in Alabama.

A widow, two of her daughters and three men were herded from a Dora, Ala., home on the night riders to a creepy, isolated spot in the woods.

"There the widow and two of the men were flogged. Hangman's bises were out around the necks of four of them.

The seventh victim was jerked out of a truck in Dora by the same hooded band. A pistol was put to his head. His life was threatened, but he was not physically harmed.

FIVE OF THE SEVEN persons named the KU KLUX KLAN as responsible. The other two could not be reached for comment.

Victims said that between 100 and 150 heavily armed Klansman took part in the Dora incident.

Dora is a mining hamlet of about 1,000. It is 28 miles northwest of Birmingham in adjoining Walker County.

The latest disclosed victims of violence and terrorism are:

Mrs. Irene Burton, Sumiton, 38 year-old widowed mother of five children. Lashed three times.

Troy Morrision, 44, Dora. Lashed five times. Hangman's noose put around neck.

Bill Lowery, 36, Dora. Lashed six times. Hangman's noose put around neck.

OFFER BY KLAN

KU KLUX KLANSMEN today offered rewards in connection with the recent floggings by ar armed and masked men.

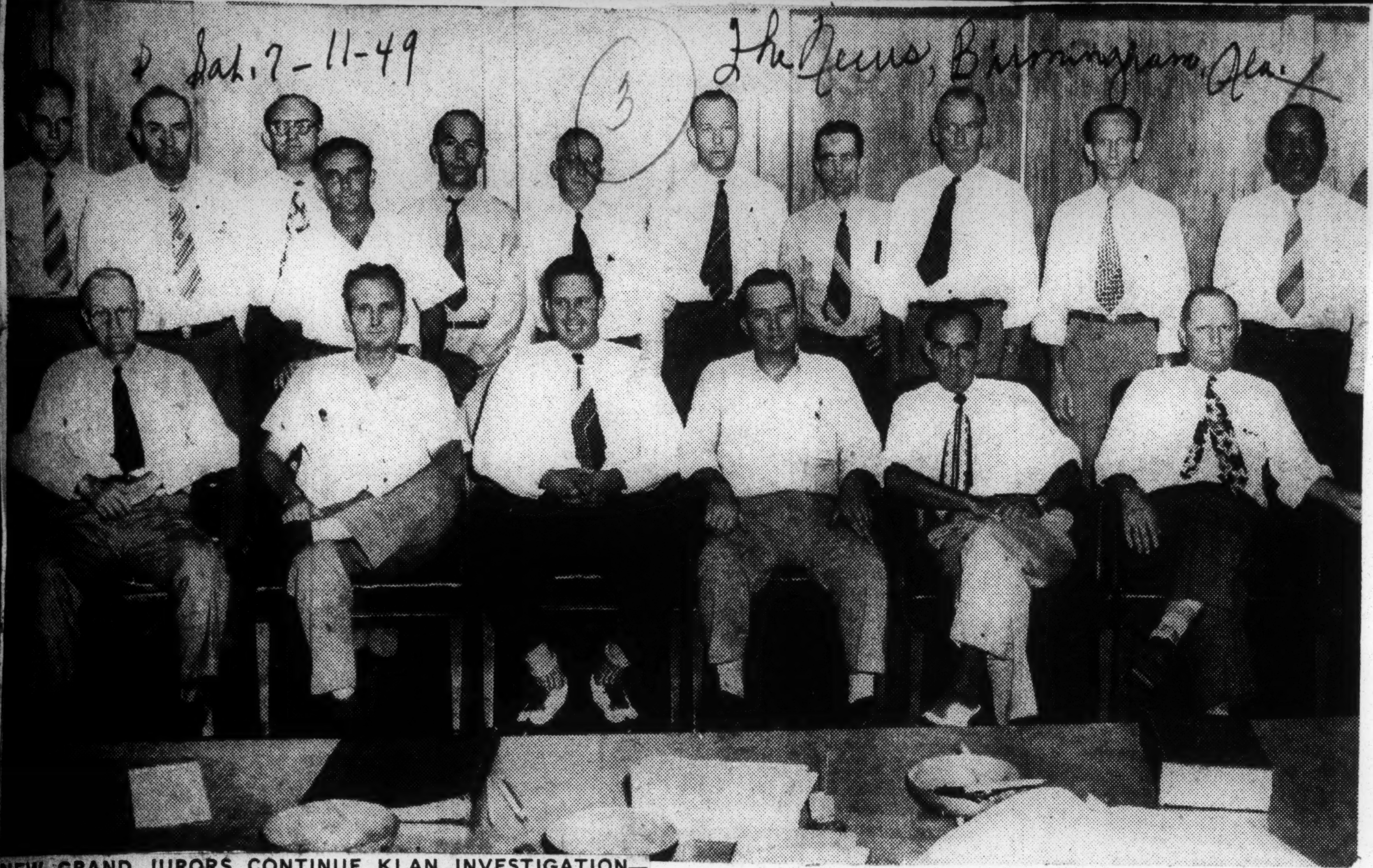
Dr. E. P. Pruitt, head of the Federated KU KLUX KLAN, Inc., said the organization would pay $50 for proof that any member of the organization participated in any floggings while wearing hoods.

E. E. Mitchell, who identified himself as head of the Robert E. Lee Klan today told Sheriff Holt McDowell the Robert E. Lee Klan would pay $50 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of any persons taking part in flogging of Billy Stovall.

Mitchell also said the Stonewall Jackson Klavern at Adamsville would pay $50 reward.

No money was posted, but Mitchell said the Klan would stand back of the reward.

Sat. 7-11-49 (3) The News, Birmingham, Ala.



NEW GRAND JURORS CONTINUE KLAN INVESTIGATION— Here are the 18 members of the new Jefferson County Grand Jury, which swung into action this morning after receiving a charge from Judge George Lewis Bailes regarding mob terrorism in this county.

Foreman of the new Grand Jury is Ronald H. Edwards, of Ensley.

'Evidence'

Grand Jury Asks Full Investigation In County Violence

B-ham News B'ham Ala. Sat. 7-9-49

The Jefferson County Grand Jury Saturday afternoon struck at night riders and mob violence when it returned 44 indictments in its investigation of such activities in the Birmingham district covering the past several months.

Fourteen persons were named by the Grand Jury in 28 indictments involving floggings.

It is understood the Grand Jury returned an additional 16 indictments citing boycotting and intimidation of wittnesses and other offenses as further violations in its investigation of mob violence in this area.

Only one of the 45 indictments returned was for an offense other than for activities involving masked men.

The grand jury report was read by John Pierce Thornton, foreman at 12:55 p.m. and was delivered to Circuit Judge Wheeler's courtroom, accompanied by Atty. Gen. A. A. Carmichael, Solicitor Emmett Perry and Cecil Deason, asssitant solicitor.

The jurors marched into Judge Wheeler's courtroom, accompanied by Atty. Gen. A. A. Carmichael, Solicitor Emmett Perry and Cecil Deason, assistant solicitor.

The court was called to order. The jury foreman read the report.

* * * *7-9-49*

"WE ARE DEEPLY CONCERNED over the situation that has existed in Jefferson County in recent months," the Grand Jury report said.

"We sincerely ask that a thorough and augmented investigation be continued and that such action, together with a report of this and the succeeding Grand Jury, be considered as notice to our people and to all persons outside of this county and that such unlawful acts will not be tolerated.

"We respectfully urge the investigating officers to make every effort to bring participants in such unlawful acts to the bar of justice.

The Grand Jury report took a sharp rap at the Jefferson County Board of Registers for failure to purge the voting lists "in the manner required by law."

"It is our considered opinion that two associate members of the board have blocked employment of sufficient personnel to take the action authorized by our statutes."

* * *

THE GRAND JURY REPORT POINTED OUT that the same jury had recommended to the Board of Registrars that the voting lists be purged.

'We have now received a further report from the two associate members of the board and they do not indicate by their testimony that they have made any effort to comply with the suggestion made by this body."

The report placed responsibility for failure to purge the voting lists directly on the two associate members— R. J. Creel and H. A. (Gus) Thompson.

The Grand Jury report took only a few minutes to read.

Judge Wheeler accepted the report and dismissed the jurors, who had been in session seven days.

"I accept your report," Judge Wheeler said.

"You have rendered great service to the citizens of Jefferson County and to the citizens of the state of Alabama.

7-9-49

"Your action, I hope, will make for better law enforcement in Jefferson County. I hope it will have the effect of making all citizens aware of the fact that we have tribunals to try persons accused of crime, and that it is not within the province of any citizen to take the law into his own hands and punish any person accused of law violation.

"It is not an excuse . . . that any victim had been guilty of law violations. That is not enough.

"It is the duty of a citizen who has evidence to present that evidence to duly constituted authorities so that prosecution can take its course in accordance with our constitution and our law."

* * *

JUDGE WHEELER THANKED THE JURORS for their "arduous duties" in behalf of the citizens. He said their pay had been small and that the room in which they had been working had been extremely uncomfortable.

"I hope," the judge said, "that your sense of duty will prove sufficient remuneration."

Capiases were turned over to Mrs. Mabel Ellard, clerk of the criminal division of Circuit Court.

Sheriff Holt McDowell was standing by to get the capiases.

"We are going to give immediate service on these and make arrests beginning as soon as the first paper is officially given me," the sheriff said.

Alabama Senate Heeds Clamor, Passes Bill To Unmask Klan

Commercial Appeal

Angry War Veterans Back Folsom In Move Against Hooded Order As Result Of Floggings In Birmingham Area—Charter Revocation Sought

Memphis Tenn Sat. 6-18-49

By The United Press

BIRMINGHAM, June 17.—The Alabama Senate, on an urgent demand by Gov. James E. Folsom, Friday passed a bill forbidding the wearing of masks as public indignation mounted over hooded outrages in the Birmingham area.

pp. 1

The Legislature acted quickly after angered veterans groups, stirred over the flogging of a former sailor, moved to form their own "Committee Against Crime and Violence" in the absence of adequate laws to deal with the hooded terror.

Folsom's appeal was carried out at the cost of an administration defeat in the State Senate at Montgomery. His backers had to drop a filibuster against economy bills aimed at the Governor and allow their passage so that the anti-mask bill could be brought to the top.

House Is In Recess

The Senate passed the bill, prohibiting public masking except by children at Halloween and carnival revelers in Mobile, by a 23 to 3 vote. It goes to the House which is in recess and cannot complete action on the measure before it reconvenes Tuesday.

Folsom also notified Atty. Gen. A. A. Carmichael to revoke the charters of any organizations in Alabama whose ritual involves public masking. He said "certain hooded organizations, by whatever nawe known, have committed unlawful acts of violence and intimidation against citizens of this state." *6-18-49*

"Inasmuch as there are several factions of such organizations throughout the state, each of which denied any knowledge or of participation in such unlawful acts . . . I ask the attorney general to begin legal action to revoke the charters immediately," the Governor's note said.

He attached the articles of incorporation of one such organization, but it's name was not revealed by the Governor's office. His message presumably referred to the Alabama Ku Klux Klan Federation as well as several offshots of the old Klan which are reported chartered in this state.

Economy Bloc Aided

In order to get the anti-masking bill up front, Folsom's lieutenants had to cut off their delaying tactics against 24 bills ahead of it. The economy bloc had the voting strength to enact all of its measures until, with four more bills still to go, the unmasking measure was brought to the top by special order. *6-18-49*

A resolution adopted by the General Gorgas Post of the American Legion upbraided Sheriff Holt McDowell for his failure to "bring to the bar of justice . . . a single person" connected with the mob activity.

Plans were approved for a joint committee of representatives of the Legion, the Disabled American Veterans and the Veterans of Foreign Wars to work out a definite plan of action to combat crime and violence.

The Legion indorsed the anti-masking bill before the Legislature and called upon Folsom and Carmichael to "make effective" their pledges to erase the mobs.

The Legion resolution, answer to the mob's flogging of a young Navy veteran earlier this week, was introduced by Carl Weigand, who said "the last vestige of human rights in a great remocracy is in the sanctity of the home."

Veterans May Lash Back

B. G. Stovall, the Navy veteran who was lashed with a leather belt Tuesday night, said a friend who claimed to represent 100 exservicemen offered to "use Klan tactics to punish the men who whipped you."

Another friend "gave me a shotgun and told me he would give me $100 for every hooded man I killed who entered my home forcibly," Stovall said.

The temper of the veterans was such that they were prepared to fight the hooded floggers on their own if police lack the manpower and legal authority to stamp them out.

Folsom admitted the law didn't go far enough when de delivered a ringing statement to the Legislature calling the raids "a disgrace to the State of Alabama."

"They must be stopped," Folsom said. As Chief Executive, I am determined that they will be stopped . . . However, it appears, unforaunately, that we do not have laws adequate to cope with the situation."

Folsom pointed out the hooded bands can only he arrested after they have actually breached the peace and then it is almost impossible to identify them.

Will Provide Needed Law

"The enactment of this anti-masking bill will enable the law enforcement authorities of this state to cope with this inimical situation and bring an end to these acts of lawless violence which are causing our great state to receive so much unfavorable publicity," Folsom said.

Sheriff McDowell, whose office is investigating three visitations by hooded men within a week, joined Folsom in appealing for the anti-mask bill.

Good Work In Alabama

Daily Mail
Atlanta, Ga.

The Alabama Senate last Friday, by a vote of 23 to 3, voted to unmask the Ku Klux Klan. The vote followed a series of floggings and threats, both to whites and Negro citizens in and around Birmingham.

The bill, passed upon the urgings of Governor James E. Folsom, awaits enactment into law when and if the Alabama House should vote favorably upon it.

Wed. 6-22-49

It is perhaps a little too early now to predict what the outcome in the House may be. But we may expect some handicaps in that large assembly of representatives, which in a sense, is more representative of the rank and file rural mind than the members of the Senate. Thus, if the bill is aired by a House Committee, as now appears evident, the chances are that the Klan forces will have had time to organize their members and exert pressure upon their representatives not to support the legislation.

In another important sense, however, if the white citizens of the State are sufficiently aroused over the Klan outrages, they too, will insist that speedy action be taken to stop the hooded outrages. Like lynching, the Klan will continue to molest honest law-abiding citizens and to act as judge and jury until the moral strength of the state is ready to put down such action.

In thus voting so overwhelmingly, the Alabama Senate has pointed the way for House members and are to be commended for their courage and promptness.

Georgia, a sister state to Alabama, needs such a law. Indeed, the idea of outlawing the wearing of hoods in public was conceived by a member of the Georgia General Assembly, but because of the widespread sympathy for the Klan and its philosophy in certain rural stretches of the State, such a bill was turned down. Prospects, we believe, are not too good for passage of such a bill at the next session. The people's minds must be changed, their attitude toward the Klan, before they will become aroused against what decent Americans regard as outrages against law and order.

6-22-49

In Tennessee, a movement is afoot to discover if there is any connection with the police department and the Klan. It seems to us that such a thing is of the utmost importance to keep any person belonging to the Klan entirely away from the enforcement of the laws, since the Klan is a law unto itself.

We congratulate Alabama and urge Georgia members of the General Assembly to go and do likewise. Georgians need such a law, for violence in our state is at its highest point since Reconstruction.

Alabama's Klan Puppets

Attorney General Carmichael and Governor Folsom have made vigorous attacks on the cowardly Kluxers who invaded a home and a business in Jefferson County this week.

Mr. Carmichael struck a new note in comments about the Klan in Alabama. He charged that members of the Klan are merely the puppets of powerful selfish interests which employ the Klan as a means of inciting racial and religious strife, so that they may hold political power for themselves.

Anybody with a halfway acquaintance in Alabama politics knows that there is solid substance in the Attorney General's charge. The Klan is not a spontaneous expression—it is artfully contrived by leaders who want either money or political advantage, and who care nothing for the integrity of American traditions.

Montgomery Advertiser

They are perfectly willing to attack the rights of Catholics, Jews, Negroes, Labor or Capital if by so doing they gain advantage.

Thurs. 6-16-49

This growing threat to peace and order in Alabama must be met and the issue is squarely before the Legislature of Alabama.

Montgomery Ala.

No man should have the legal right to cover his face in public—neither a hold-up man nor a Klansman. The Legislature has the power and the obligation to protect the people of Alabama from lawless depredations such as have incensed decent citizens of Jefferson County within the last few days.

Members of the Legislature should act —and act now. It is their responsibility to spare Alabama the shame of another Klan disgrace such as blighted this state in the 20's.

Dixiecrats And Klansmen

To the Editor:

Some leaders of the Ku Klux Klan claim that the purpose of the Klan is to keep the Negro in his place and maintain white supremacy in the South. Some Dixiecrat leaders claim that their purpose is to keep the Negro in his place and maintain white supremacy in the South. Is this just coincidence?

The Klan has made great gains in the past year in membership. Negroes have been brutally beaten, some of their homes have been blown up, their Girl Scout camp raided. Could this degradation be the aftermath of those inflammatory speeches made during the past year by some of our Dixiecrat leaders?

Some of our law enforcement officers point out the fact that the whippings are not confined to the Negro race, that white trash has been whipped, too. It seems that the Klan has deviated from its main purpose, by whipping too much white trash, and it has aroused a clamor for more laws and more officers. Is it more laws and more officers we need? Or do we need officers who are not Klansmen or fellow travelers of the Klan?

Birmingham, Ala. MARION BERRY.

Alabama Press On Violence In Jefferson

(From The Anniston Star)

If a refugee from one of the Russian concentration camps had suddenly arrived in Alabama during the past few weeks, he well might have felt that he had been deceived by the Voice of America which has been trying to tell the story of our freedom and democracy to the outside world. For if he had read in the newspapers or heard over the radio about the rash of hoodlumism and hooded terrorism with which we have been afflicted he would have been excused for thinking that we are little better than the land from which he had fled.

Happily, however, the greater part of the state has been free from Klan infestation and the unmasked outrages that follow in its wake. The worst of the carnival of crime has been centered in Jefferson County, where the law has been openly flouted time after time in depredations against innocent men and women.

Wed 6-22-49

Folsom And The Klan

(From The Montgomery Advertiser)

The Advertiser congratulates Folsom on his leadership in unmasking the Klan and in challenging mob action in any form.

The guttersnipes of the Klan are riding again. . . .

Now, as in the '20s, the enemies of the Klan believe that the key to exterminating the Klan is to unmask it. . . .

The Advertiser does not fear a resurgance of the Klan to the dimensions of the '20s.

In fact, it is altogether clear that the situation of today and yesterday are different. Not the least reason for this is that today the Klan is insignificant as a political force. . . .

Today we know of no respectable public figures in the Klan. Members are riff-raff. To call a man fellow Klansman in 1927 might be a salutation of fraternity, whereas today such a salutation would be an insult equal or surpassing the nation's No. 1 epithet. . . .

The Jefferson County activity demonstrates that there is work to be done, but the situation is not comparable to 1927.

* * *

Opportunity For The Klan

(From The Mountain Eagle, Jasper)

If the K. K. K. organization is really in earnest about the promotion of law enforcement and good order in the state and nation there is an opportunity for its members to accomplish something worth while. Wearing masks leads to suspicion, confusion and division among the people and it will inevitably lead to homicide, just as it did in Walker County, more than 20 years ago.

If the Klan will lay off its masks, get up the evidence against law violators and present it to the courts it will be accomplishing something worth while. . . .

Any lawlessness is bad enough, but organized lawlessness is the most dangerous kind. If some sorry man is violating the law or abusing his family, that is individual lawlessness. If an organized group breaks into that man's home and drags him into the night and punishes him, that is organized lawlessness, which is much more dangerous to the state. Hitler's Nazi did it, and no home was safe in Germany.

* * *

Terror In Jefferson County

(From Our Southern Home, Livingston)

It is temptingly easy to sit back and say that the repulsive acts of terrorism committed by the Ku Klux Klan during the past week in the Birmingham area are no concern of ours here in the pastoral serenity of Sumter County.

Such is not the case, however.

A cancerous growth, sooner or later, affects the entire body. It must be ruthlessly cut out before it gains headway. . . .

These demented monsters in robes and hoods should be hunted down like the diseased and infected rats they are. There is no place for such human scum in our society.

Even worse than the depravities committed by thes lunatics, however, is the failure of the constituted authorities to do anything about them. What is the reason for this failure? What is the explanation?

* * *

Two Of A Kind

(From The Dothan Eagle)

Alabama "imperial" Jefferson County is the scene of shocking lawlessness these days. . . .

Though this happened in Birmingham, the people of Alabama as a whole need not regard it as remote and not concerning them. To the contrary, they are affected and directly so. The laws that were violated are state laws, the same laws under which they live. Their laws have been broken the same as the laws of the people of Jefferson County.

The people of the entire state have a r[ight] and a duty, to demand that the state do so[me]thng about such acts of violence, vandalism and mob rule. . . .

* * *

The Point Of Reason

(From The Tuscaloosa News)

Violence and terrorism are spreading in the Birmingham area. When seemingly well-meaning, law-abiding residents don sheet and hood, they become disciples of the cloak and dagger. Their acts of sadism appear to be the acts of overgrown children—brought about by youths whose desire for adventure has caused them to become the tools of a few ill-bent

K. K. K. Denies Reign Of Terror In Clay

ASHLAND, Ala., July 2—Federated Ku Klux Klan today challenged anybody to prove that klansmen are responsible for Clay County's reign of terror.

William Hugh Morris, of Birmingham, state Klan director, and the Rev. Alvin Horn, Talladega County minister, declared that "We don't have that type of men in our organization."

They said the Klan would give a reward of $500 to any person who furnished proof that klansmen participated in the series of floggings in this area.

They also renewed the Klan's offer of a $500 reward for proof that the Klan is responsible for floggings in Jefferson County.

The Rev. Horn is a Baptist minister. He serves several churches. Both he and Mr. Morris lobbied for defeat of the Mize anti-mask bill.

HORN DECLARED at that time that he had rather be hanged from the dome of the Capitol than to see the Klan lose its mask.

They also challenged Atty. Gen. Albert A. Carmichael to prove that the Klan is guilty of participating in or condoning the floggings.

Morris, a florid-faced man with burning dark eyes said, "The day Mr. Carmichael proves that, we will surrender our charter. He doesn't have to file court action. All he's got to do is prove this stuff."

The two men claimed that members of the Klan are screened carefully and that no man who has been convicted of a misdemeanor is allowed to join.

Horn, a soft-spoken person with a firm belief in "our Southern principles" said Clay County Sheriff Rhett Owens was too conservative when he estimated that there are 350 klansmen in this county.

The organizer said "800 is closer to it." But he did not know the exact number of members and made it plain he would not release them if he did.

"I will say," he added, "that 75 per cent of the most prominent men in this county belong."

Morris and Horn have been here the last two days investigating the floggings. They probably will issue a report of their investigation early next week.

Reward Stands At $3,000 For Dope On Mobs

Who are the masked men who set themselves up as judge and jury and flog their victims?

Who are they who hide their faces and frighten women and children?

Who are they who have threatened, slugged and belted men and women in the dark of night?

Who are these men?

You may know one of them—or more.

You can help restore law and order to your community by giving information on these men, their auto tag numbers, their actions, their meeting places—names of victims.

The American Legion now has $3,000 for a reward fund for information leading to arrest and conviction of masked men who have flogged, threatened or intimidated people.

You can give information and keep your name secret.

Print your information on a sheet of paper. Sign it with some numbers and letters of the alphabet. Put the numbers and letters on a corner of the paper and tear off the corner.

Mail your information to Special Information, P. O. Box 2553, Birmingham.

Nobody will know you gave the information.

You may come in for a reward.

ORGANIZER AND DIRECTOR—The Rev. Alvin Horn (left) is an organizer for the Ku Klux Klan. William Hugh Morris is state director. Behind them is the Clay County Courthouse where floggers will be prosecuted if the state can gather enough evidence to call a Grand Jury session.

Ala. Indictments Name 17 Persons

BY FRANK D. PRAYTOR
Staff Correspondent

BIRMINGHAM, Ala — (INS) — Jefferson County officers struck swiftly Monday, and by mid-afternoon had rounded up 12 of 17 persons named in indictments in connection with Birmingham's siege of nightrider activities.

Other arrests were expected momentarily.

Among those taken into custody was suburban Police Chief Elmer Bailey Brock, of Brookside. Brock voluntarily surrendered to Sheriff Holt McDowell and posted $600 bond on two charges—neglect of duty and intimidation of a witness.

Two others also posted bonds of $1,000 each.

Five others were held without bond, and two others were jailed in lieu of a $1,000 bond.

Held without bond, for allegedly breaking into the home of Mrs. Edna McDanal, of Westwood, and dragging her outside to witness a cross burning, were:

Richard Loller, 33; Albert Swindle 32; A. C. Carradine; Roy Landrum, 25; and Colman E. Loller, Alias Brownie Loller, a former special Deputy Sheriff.

The five also were charged with flogging while masked and boycotting. Bond on each count was set at $1,000.

The boycotting charges grew out of threats against a restaurant operator, D. Mashler, for serving Negroes.

Carradine was named in four counts of flogging.

Moody Nations, 44 of Black Creek, was named on three flogging counts. He has not yet posted bond.

Robert E. Chambliss, 45, ar employee of Birmingham's City Repair Shop, was named on a flogging count, failed to post $1,000 bond. He was involved in the May 25 flogging at Coalburg, Aka.

Mel Fields, 41, and William Allen Byrd, 28, posted $1,000 bond on one count of flogging.

A series of 44 indictments were returned Saturday afternoon by a Special Grand Jury following a 7-day probe in connection with the wave of hooded terrorism. Nearly 90 witnesses paraded in an out of the jury room during its investigation.

One official of the Ku Klux Klan, William H. Morris, a Birmingham contractor, was ordered jailed for contempt when he reufsed to turn over KKK records requested by the Grand Jury.

Morris was ordered released on $500 bond Saturday on condition he supply another Grand Jury the Klan records. He declined, and is still behind bars.

Meanwhile, in Montgomery, Morris' attorneys said they would seek to have the state supreme court release Morris on a writ of review for his contempt citation.

Bring Hoods To Justice, Group Cries

Jefferson County veterans this afternoon were called on to form a "Committee against Crime and Violence" as the needed answer to lawlessness by hooded mobs in this district.

The 39-man executive committee of Gen. Gorgas Post No. 1, American Legion, unanimously adopted a resolution to this effect this afternoon.

The resolution called on other Legion posts in this county, the Disabled American Veterans and the Veterans of Foreign Wars to form "a committee against crime and violence."

THE RESOLUTION asked the veterans' organizations to meet at the earliest possible time to determine what course of action veterans can take to "put an end to instances of lawlessness and mob violence."

The resolution set out that "the law enforcement officers of Jefferson County have failed or refused to this day to bring to the bar of justice a single person connected with any of these numerous crimes and acts of violence."

The resolution called on Sheriff Holt McDowell to "arrest and bring before the bar of justice" the masked and robed "violators" responsible for these acts of violence.

* * *

THE RESOLUTIONS asked the sheriff to take action so "the citizens of this county shall have protection and security to which they are entitled as American citizens."

Carl Wiegand introduced the resolution. Marvin Warner, post commander, presided at the meeting.

Billy Guyton Stovall, 31-year-old Navy veteran, at the outset of the meeting, told how a hooded, robed band took him from his home in North Birmingham this week and struck him 20 times with a belt.

Just before the meeting opened, an anonymous telephone call warned the Legion post's membership to leave the Stovall beating alone "and stick to the selling of poppies."

* * *

THE RESOLUTION commended Gov. James E. Folsom and Atty. Gen. A. A. Carmichael for the stand they have taken in attempting to halt mob violence over the state.

The resolution also called upon the Alabama Legislature to pass the anti-masking bill. It would bar wearing of masks in Alabama without a legal permit.

2. Four special state investigators have been added to the staff of officers working to find out who was responsible for the lashing Tuesday night of Billy Guyton Stovall, 31-year-old Navy veteran, who was dragged from his home and hit some 20 times with a belt.

The State Highway Patrol here

has been increased.

3. Special state investigators have entered the investigation of the beating of four men at the Cahaba Coal Mining Company pit in Shelby County on Monday of this week.

SHELBY GRAND JURY will convene Tuesday morning in special session to investigate the raid on the Cahaba pit by more than 300 armed men.

4. Birmingham Rep. Laurie Battle made public in Washington a telegram he received from Herbert Hinz, of Bessemer, brother of the mine operator who was injured in the mine invasion Monday.

The wire asked the Federal Bureau of Investigation to enter the investigation.

Rep. Battle called the FBI acting chief and told Mr. Hinz in a wire that he had been "assured the FBI will be glad to listen to the stories and get the facts." Battle suggested the injured man call the FBI chief in Birmingham.

Battle said the FBI will give "its complete cooperation as far as possible within its jurisdiction."

The Birmingham congressman said "this sort of thing distresses me very much. It complicates our fight in Congress against civil rights bills. It gives ammunition and new zeal to supporters of FEPC, anti-lynching, anti-poll tax and other civil rights bills."

State and county officers today continued their search for the hooded men behind Tuesday's lashing and last week's cross-burning incidents.

Sheriff Holt McDowell said four deputies have been assigned "exclusively" to tracking down the hooded men. Gov. James E. Folsom has bolstered the State Highway Patrol force here. Four special state investigators also are working on the cases.

George D. King, FBI agent in charge here, said his office is waiting instructions from Washington on the mob cases. He said all information on them has been sent to Washington headquarters.

"It will be determined there," Mr. King said, "if federal statutes have been violated in the recent acts of violence here."

Stovall, who lives at 4112 North 31st Street, revealed yesterday he was offered help by a group which promised to fight back against hooded mobsters with "klan tactics."

HE SAID A MAN he could not identify called at his home and said: "We want to help you. We are prepared to adopt Klan tactics, if necessary, to punish the men who whipped you."

Stovall said the man claimed to represent 100 former service men living in and near Birmingham.

"He came to my place about 9:30 p.m. Wednesday," Stovall said. "He asked to be let in. I told him I would not let him in even if he was J. Edgar Hoover. And I told him he would have to tell me what he wanted through the window."

"This man," Stovall continued, "told me the 100 men he was talking about are willing to do anything they can to find out who dragged me out of my house Tuesday night.

"He told me this, 'If we find them and can't get them prosecuted, we'll adopt Klan tactics and punish them ourselves.'"

Stovall said the mysterious man told him he had done work on "investigations" before.

That's not the only offer of assistance by private citizens.

"One man gave me a 14-guage shotgun," Stovall said. "He told me he would give me $100 for every hooded man I killed who entered my home forcibly.

"I have my new gun and I think I'm ready for anything that might come up from now on. I have a couple of guns and I will not hesitate to use them in protection of my wife and kids."

STOVALL SAID the hooded men who kidnaped and lashed him told him the beating was because he left his children alone at home. He denied it.

A 42-YEAR-OLD grandmother was slapped and dragged from her home Friday night and threatened with lashing and burning. On the same night another hooded mob threatened a Brookside cafe operator and burned a cross at his place of business. All the victims are white.

More than 12 witnesses have been subpoenaed to appear before the Shelby County Grand Jury at 9 a.m. Tuesday.

The jurors have been called into special session by Circuit Judge W. W. Wallace to investigate the raid on the Cahaba Coal Mining Company pit in Shelby County Monday by more than 300 armed men.

Deputies On Alert

The hooded raiders did not ride last night but Sheriff Holt A. McDowell's deputies did.

Sheriff McDowell said he sent every available man out on a tip that the mobsters were planning to ride.

"We are standing by to answer calls about the raiders," Sheriff McDowell said. He asked that people please cooperate by not passing on to the sheriff's office anything but accurate information concerning possible raids.

Deputy sheriffs of Shelby County and special investigators from the State Department of Public Safety have been developing information to be presented the Grand Jury.

Ross Bob Mullins, Columbiana electrical appliance dealer, is foreman of the Grand Jury.

The 11 men who were present at the Cahaba pit when the mob appeared Monday have been summoned to appear.

One of the 11, William Hinz, 37, co-owner of the pit and a former Howard College football player, was kicked in the eye. Condition of his eye today was reported "improved but still serious."

Solicitor Paul O. Luck, Columbiana, said a "partial list" of the mobsters had been drawn up and will be turned over to the Grand Jury.

SPECIAL GREETINGS FOR HOODED MEN—The next time hooded men call at the home of Billy Guyton Stovall, above, they'll be welcomed with the new gun he is shown holding. Stovall was kidnaped from his home at 4112 North 31st Street and flogged Tuesday night. After he bought the gun he said, "I'm ready for them now."

ALABAMA SHERIFF TERMS FLOGGING A KIDNAPPING

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — June 15 — (INS) — Alabama authorities Wednesday night termed the abduction and flogging of a Birmingham Navy veteran by a mob of robed and hooded men a "clear-cut case of kidnaping."

Billy Guyton Stovall, 31-year-old pipe company worker, was dragged from his home before the eyes of his two terrified children, driven to an isolated spot and lashed 20 times with a leather whip.

The nightriders told Stovall they were punishing him for forcing his wife to go to work.

Sheriff Hugh McDowell, faced with the third mob violence in four days, said:

"I wouldn't be surprised if continued raids result in hooded men being shot by frightened people."

McDowell said he does not believe the floggers were Ku Klux Klansmen because they wore white aprons made of sack material rather than the customary white robes of the Klan.

A 42-year-old widow was dragged from her home in Birmingham last Friday and held while robed men burned a cross. The same night, the Kluxers threatened a cafe operator.

The latest violence came after state Attorney General A. A. Carmichael had promised to push the investigation of the Friday incidents "until we find out who is guilty." Carmichael branded the K. K. K. members as "bums, hoodlums and gangsters."

PHONE CALLS FLOOD KLAN INVESTIGATOR

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., June 19 (UP)—A special "terrorism" investigator was flooded with telephone calls today in the wake of Gov. James E. Folsom's request to report any evidence of gangs of night-riders or of threats.

The investigator, appointed to aid county authorities stamp out masked mobs, said that many of the calls seemed to be "phoney." But he said he was investigating.

He said that Mrs. Felix E. Thomas, the mother of five children and wife of a truck driver, reported that she had been warned "the Klan is coming to see you and your husband." She said an unidentified woman came to her house yesterday to deliver the threat.

A cross was burned late last night in the rear of an eighteen-unit apartment building inside the city limits. The recent acts of terror laid to masked men had occurred outside the city proper. None apparently saw the cross being set up.

Meanwhile, the newly-formed citizens' voluntary committee, under chairmanship of Dr. John Buchanan, Baptist pastor, called a mass meeting of all civic, religious, patriotic and business groups for Wednesday afternoon. Its purpose will be to give active support to law and order here.

Sheriff Holt McDowell late yesterday disclosed the flogging of Bill Hamilton, a coal miner. A crippled miner, William Rochester, said he was forced to witness the beating as "a lesson." Mr. McDowell has advised citizens that they have a right to defend themselves "by any means." Mr. Rochester and B. G. Stovall, another lash victim, armed themselves.

School 114 to Be Enlarged

Construction of an addition to Public School 114, Cromwell Avenue and 167th Street, the Bronx, will be begun tomorrow. Mayor O'Dwyer and other officials are scheduled to speak at a ceremony in the school auditorium at 2 P. M. The new unit will provide eight classrooms and cost $153,331. It will accommodate 256 pupils, bringing the capacity of the enlarged school to 1,216.

3 1949 KKK (Alabama)

WHERE ARE THE DEFENDERS?

The six floggings of white people we have had in Alabama recently have caused a new hue and cry for Federal intervention in order to break the back of mob violence.

Congress is making investigations of the Alabama beatings and the FBI agents are on the grounds to see whether there have been violations of Federal law.

One can be certain too that there will be an increased demand for an antilynching bill.

Colored people in Georgia and Alabama are especially concerned. Everywhere the cry goes up that the war veterans have not acted according to expectations and in fact have let the South down.

The feeling was that if these men were sent into the Army, were disciplined and taught the use of firearms, they would return to their homes and defend them with their lives.

This has not happened. Nobody in the South to whom the AFRO has talked has been able to say why.

One correspondent reports that the more intelligent the self-asserting war veterans have left the South for the North. Perhaps that is true.

Another says that those who have not gone North have certainly left the Alabama and Georgia rural areas and moved into the big towns.

That, too, may be true, but there must be some war veterans who have come back to their Southern homes and it is incredible to believe that they have faced the Japs and the Germans, gone through all the hell of shells and bombs and flame throwers and now should be terrorized by people covered with bed sheets.

It is time that the veterans of the South stood up and protected themselves, their homes, and their people.

Afro Baltimore, Md. Sat. 7-2-49

Judge Jails Alabama Klan Leader For Refusing to Produce Records

N.Y. Times

By The United Press

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., July 7—William Hugh Morris, a director of the Ku Klux Klan in Alabama, was jailed for contempt of court today after he refused to produce Klan records for a special grand jury investigating hooded terrorism. There have been reports of fourteen floggings recently.

Circuit Judge Robert J. Wheeler ordered Morris held in the Jefferson County Jail until the information was made available.

The grand jury, which is expected to return a number of indictments in connection with almost a score of masked raids in this area, has been trying for two days to obtain the Klan records. Six Klan officials have gone before the jury.

Today, Albert A. Carmichael, State Attorney General, speaking for the grand jury, asked Judge Wheeler for a court order to require Morris to furnish the roster.

Judge Wheeler immediately ordered Morris to produce it. Morris refused, asserting "those records are of a confidential and personal nature."

"I don't feel that the Ku Klux Klan is on trial," said Morris, who is an incorporator and director of the Federated Ku Klux Klan of Alabama, Inc. "I'd feel just as badly to reveal the Klan's secrets as I would to reveal the secrets of the Masons or any other secret organization."

"You are assuming an obligation that is not yours," Judge Wheeler said. "It is my duty to judge you in direct contempt and commit you to the County Jail of this court and there remain until you have those records produced."

Morris, a roofing contractor, who was led away shouting for his Klan associates to get him a lawyer, cannot be bailed out under Alabama law. His only recourse is to seek release on habeas corpus.

The Klan officially had denied any knowledge of the floggings.

7-8-49

No Reasons Justify Acts, Jurors Told

The News Birmingham, Ala.

Judge George Lewis Bailes today charged a new Grand Jury to take up where the last Grand Jury left off in its investigation of mob terrorism in Jefferson County.

The Grand Jury will hear evidence in 135 cases including several murder and rape cases and one arson case.

"This thing of entering a home at night time smacks too much of Balkan countries and the pattern of Asia," the judge charged the newly-sworn Grand Jurors. 7-11-49

"This matter of purging:

"'Someone knocks at a door and carries a man out. Thousands of such men are never heard from again . . . ,' the judge said.

* * *

"AND SO YOU CAN SEE this business we are discussing violates one of our ancient principles.

"'Rain may beat through a sorry roof over our head, the wind and snow may come through chinks in a

Pictures on Page 6

log cabin, but a king may not enter that home without due process of law. . . .'

"Therefore, gentlemen, Judge Bailes continued, "you will take up of course those felony cases which will be presented to you—and please add to them any facts brought to you properly and legally . . . touching any such actions as that I have discussed before you."

The judge urged the jurymen to deliberate "without furor and without hysteria.

"We should go calmly and without pressure from anybody," he said.

THE JUDGE TOLD JURORS, "Persons who commit acts of violense try to justify it by saying victims were guilty of many things. They say the victims were immoral, they gambled, they were prostitutes. . . .

"These reasons are not to be countenanced by this Grand Jury nor by decent people of this county.

"Good intentions are no excuse. It often has been said from the pulpit and a mother's knee that the road to hell is paved with good intentions."

Judge Bailes said, "These persons whose homes are entered in nighttime, these persons who are beaten, are alleged not equal with others.

"We talk about all men being created equal with certain inalienable rights."

"THESE VICTIMS," the judge said, "are equal.

"It is the right of every man and woman, whether living in a shanty or palace—literate or illerate—to move up as far as his character will take him."

Judge Bailes' charge to the Grand Jury was delayed by the absence of one of 18 jurors. At 10:40 a.m., after waiting about 50 minutes for the missing man, the judge went ahead with his charge.

The missing juror dropped out of the picture when the 18 men were instructed to leave the jury room and were told to meet in Judge Bailes' court on the sixth floor. It is believed the juror left for home or his job, thinking that selection of 18 men from the jury list completed work for the day.

State Atty. Gen. Albert A. Carmichael and Deputy Solcitor Cecil Deason sat in the courtroom during the judge's charge.

Foreman of the Grand Jury is Ronald H. Edwards, 2134 30th Place, Ensley.

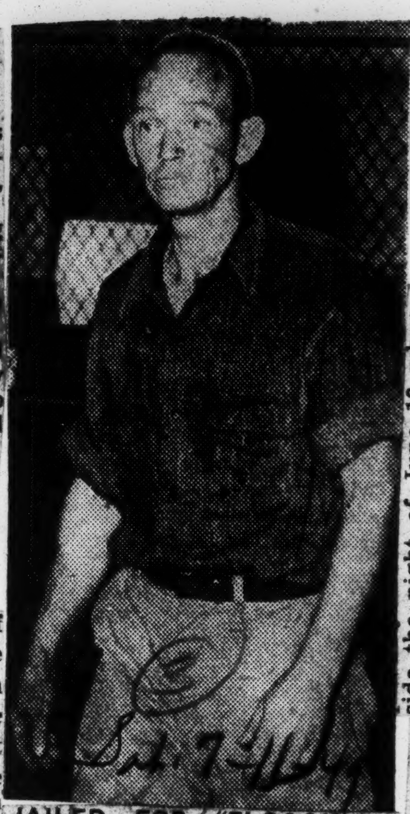
One of the 18 Grand Jury members is a Negro.

7-11-49 * * *

MEMBERS OF THE NEW Grand Jury are: Ronald H. Edwards, Ensley business man, foreman; Gerald Blackwell, superintendent; Alexander Bewis, truck driver; Alvin W. Carr, Jr., printer; Cecil W. Davis, trainman; Chap P. Day, shipping clerk; Roscoe Higgins, shearman;

Houston Martin, mechanic; Clyde R. Martin, machinist; Eugene C. Millsap, yard foreman; Forrest C. Newsome, fireman; Clyde W. Pearce, carpenter; Harold E. Rigg, balancing clerk;

Burt H. Sauger, laundry; Thomas O. Stephenson, clerk; Robert E. Stringfellow, assistant manager; Jim Swain, Negro, laborer; Ben H. Vines, powerhouse operator.



JAILED FOR "FLOGGING"—Robert E. Chambliss, city garage repairman, was arrested by deputy sheriffs today on a charge of "flogging while masked." He was indicted by the Jefferson County Grand Jury Saturday.

CHIEF ARRESTED—Police Chief Elmer Brock, of Brookside, photographed as he surrendered at the sheriff's office in answer to Grand Jury indictments charging neglect of duty and intimidation of a witness.

CHAMBLISS ENTERED THE touchy and explosive Smithfield zoning picture several weeks ago when he reportedly walked up to Willie German, a Negro, and warned him not to move into a house.

Chambliss was quoted as saying to the Negro: "I am a city employe and a member of the Robert E. Lee Klan."

He warned him not to move into the house and told the Negro the house would be "blown up."

Chambliss was the second man to be arrested by the sheriff's office.

He was taken in custody by Deputy O. E. Kinney and Sheriff's Clerk Robert Lindbergh,

CHAMBLISS WAS suspended for 10 days by Mayor Cooper Green for "conduct unbecoming a city employe," after the mayor inquired into the incident.

E. E. Campbell, cyclops of the Robert E. Lee Klavern, of the Ku Klux Klan, denied at the time that Chambliss was a member of the Klan. 7-11-49

The Negro, Willie German, had moved into a house zoned for white people in North Smithfield. German immediately moved out of the house.

Three Negro houses less than a block from the house German moved into and out of in short order after the warning by Chambliss, were blown up in March of this year.

Another house in the same area was blown up in 1947.

Those charged with flogging were kept in jail in lieu of $1,000 bond.

* * *

THE BROOKSIDE policeman reportedly was in downtown Brookside the night of June 10 when a small army of masked and robed men rode into the little mining village and raided a cafe operated by Steve Marshlar.

A woman witness before the Grand Jury said she was visited by a police officer the night before her testimony was to be given the secret body.

The Brookside cafe was visited by masked men the same night. Mrs. Hugh McDanal was visited by robed men who threatened her and burned a cross in her yard.

Circuit Judge Robert J. Wheeler, who heard the jury return 44 indictments Saturday, was ordered to bed yesterday by his physician. He may not be able to be at the courthouse today. Thus, the warrants may be signed by Circuit Judge George Lewis Bailes.

* * *

NO OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT has been made of the specific charges in the 44 indictments which have been made. However, it was learned that six are for first degree burglary, eight for boycotting, one for intimidation of a witness and one for neglect of duty. Fourteen persons were charged with 28 other counts growing out of night riding activities in the Birmingham area by hooded, robed men.

(Under Alabama law, boycotting is an act interfering with a person's right to do business.)

Solicitor Emmett Perry, who requested the investigation into the wave of cross burnings, floggings and night riding in Jefferson County, said he will ask the four state investigators working on the case to remain in the county.

* * *

"THE INVESTIGATION of mob violence in Jefferson County has just begun," Perry said. "Both citizens and officials should feel derelict in their duties until the last mobster faces a qualified and intelligent jury."

Meanwhile, the executive committee of the Disabled American Veterans of Alabama last night pledged to turn over all information they receive about "mobs and gangsters" to state officers.

Newly-elected state officers and members of the committee met at the Tutwiler Hotel with Dr. Moody Walker, Huntsville, state commander.

Dr. Walker pointed out that, "we, as an organization, heartily oppose the action of mobs and gangsters. We further believe that we can help the law enforcement officers by giving them any and all information that comes into our hands."

The group endorsed his proposal unanimously.

LAN CHIEF FAILS IN FREEDOM PLEA

Alabama Court Says It Cannot Rule on Stolen Records

Minister Is Accused

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., July 23 (AP)—William Hugh Morris, state director of the Federated Ku Klux Klans, Inc., failed again today to win release from jail. He was sentenced for contempt of court on July 7 when he refused to bring Klan records before a grand jury.

He sought release today on the ground that the records have been stolen and therefore could not be brought in. Judge Alta L. King dismissed the plea, saying his court had no jurisdiction.

Mr. Morris' attorney, Hugh Locke, argued that under the ruling his client could stay in jail forever. The attorney said he would make another attempt before the Alabama Supreme Court.

Meanwhile, the grand jury investigating floggings charged the Rev. R. C. Lyons with three masked floggings. Mr. Lyons, who is 47 years old, is the eighteenth man indicted in the state's campaign against hooded floggers. All are out on bond.

The minister, in jail since Tuesday on a warrant, was charged by one flogging victim with praying over him just before the lash was applied.

Mr. Lyons, who took his New Testament into jail with him, told newsmen he had been "preaching about three years." He said he had no regular church and was a mule-handler at a coal mine on weekdays.

He was charged today with three floggings while masked and one first-degree burglary. Bond for the four cases was fixed at $4,000.

Retaliation Is Pledged

Dr. Lycurgus Spinks, a 1947 candidate for Governor in Mississippi, speaking last night at a public meeting called by the Klan in suburban Tarrant City, threatened political revenge against officials accusing the Klan of mob violence.

Dr. Spinks, who lives in Thomasville, Ala., predicted that the Klan would have 150,000 Alabama members by the next election and asserted:

"We are going to see that some of those birds down in Montgomery [the state capitol] are retired to their country estates."

He followed with verbal assaults on state officials who have been active in Klan investigations.

The audience of about 600 persons was not masked.

KKK Officers Called Before Jefferson Jury

Woman Tells Of Beating By 75 Robed Men; Daughter Also Flogged

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., July 5—(AP)—The Jefferson County grand jury today called high-ranking Ku Klux Klan officers to testify as four new floggings by hooded, robed men were uncovered.

Those summoned by the jury were Dr. E. P. Pruitt, president of the Federated Ku Klux Klan, Inc., and E. E. Campbell, identified as Grand Cyclops of the Robert E. Lee Klan, Birmingham, by state investigators.

Claim Whipping

Meanwhile, a white woman waiting to testify before the grand jury today told newsmen how she and her daughter and two men were whipped in April.

The woman, Mrs. Elizabeth Studdard of Lynn Park, in western Jefferson County, identified the flogging victims as herself and daughter, Opal, 21, and Albert Sanders, and Auxford Spradlin.

She told this story:

A mob of 75 to 100 men, all robed and many armed, came to her home. They seized the five persons in the house, but did not flog Mrs. Studdard's brother, Emmett Hobson, because he had heart trouble.

Hit Four Times

The woman said she and her daughter each received four blows. Spradlin was hit 10 times, she said, and Sanders eight.

Like nearly all the other 10 whippings reported in this county, the new ones were in the mountainous area west of Birmingham. Most residents of the area are coal miners.

Ku Klux Klan officials say their organization is not responsible for the wave of floggings and cross burnings in the state. The grand jury opened a special session here last Friday to investigate mob terror in this district.

Futile Fight

Dr. Pruitt was one of the witnesses for the Klan at Montgomery in its futile fight against the recently enacted anti-masking law.

He has announced that the Klan would test the law in court on the ground that it is discriminatory.

Meanwhile, 30 Clay County citizens today protested to the Birmingham News Age-Herald what they termed "undue, unfair exagerations" in newspaper accounts of Clay County floggings.

Floggings Probe Continues Today

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., July 4—(AP)—At least 30 witnesses remain to be heard in the grand jury investigation of hooded terrorism in Jefferson County.

The jury reconvenes Tuesday. It is taking evidence in 10 acts of mob violence, most of them in the mountainous coal mining area west of this city.

Solicitor Emmett Perry, whose request brought the special grand jury session, declined to forecast how long the inquiry would last.

Another special grand jury investigation of violence by robed and hooded mobs was under consideration in Clay County, where several beatings have taken place.

Circuit Judge W. W. Wallace said he would confer with Solicitor Arthur L. Hardegree at Ashland Tuesday on whether to summon a jury or "await further developments."

The Clay County outbreak was revealed by two Methodist ministers, who conducted a private investigation. They are the Rev. Frank Ledford, Ashland, and the Rev. Luther Brown, Millersville.

Both reported they had been threatened after news of the series of floggings was printed.

Five Beaten By Hoodlums Near Dora

Walker County Deputy Says No Investigation Of Floggings Made

All Victims White

Three Women Whipped Within Last Month, According To Officer

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., June 19 (AP)—Three women and two men have been flogged by hooded and robed bands near Dora, Ala., within the last month, a Walker County officer said today.

Dora is 28 miles northwest of Birmingham, in adjoining Walker County. Its population is 1,032.

Chief Deputy Herman Treece at Jasper, the county seat, said all the victims were white.

No Investigation

Treece said no formal complaint had been made to the sheriff's office there. No formal investigation was made, he added.

Treece said his information was that the "beatings were mild."

This development followed a series of floggings and cross burnings in Jefferson (Birmingham) County which have been reported in recent weeks.

Included in Jefferson were the beating of a 31-year-old Navy veteran and a 39-year-old man, and two instances in which persons were compelled to witness cross burnings.

State investigators said they found a special deputy sheriff guarding a meeting of the Ku Klux Klan at Adamsville, Ala., Friday night.

Adamsville is between Birmingham and Dora.

Victims Not Identified

Treece said he did not know the names of the victims of the Dora floggings.

Deputy Sheriff J. P. Robinson, who lives at Dora, said he had "heard about a whipping" and assumed the Walker sheriff's office was investigating it.

Treece said the beatings, all apparently in separate incidents, occurred the same night 20 carloads of robed and hooded men paraded through the Dora streets.

Officials of the Klan here have denied that organization had anything to do with night-riding activities here.

KLAN LEADER JAILED IN ALABAMA APPEALS

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., July 14—Legal moves to force Alabama's Federated Ku Klux Klan, Inc., to produce its membership lists were temporarily suspended today pending a tSate Supreme Court ruling on whether the Klan's director was guilty of contempt in refusing to divulge the information.

In Montgomery the Supreme Court reserved decision on the application of Wililam Hugh Morris, State Director of the Klan, for a writ of certiorari requiring a review of the Birmingham court order that sentenced him to jail for refusing to produce Klan records before a grand jury.

The grand jury was investigating reported acts of violence by masked mobs in Jefferson County, of which Birmingham is the seat. Circuit Judge Robert J. Wheeler then ordered Morris jailed until he produced the records.

Three days later the grand jury was discharged after handing up forty-four indictments against seventeen persons. Last Monday a succeeding grand jury was impaneled with directions from the court to continue to investigate Klan activities.

Hugh Locke, counsel for Morris, contended before the Supreme Court that Morris was not guilty of the direct contempt for which he was jailed, and that as the grand jury was discharged it was no longer possible for him to "purge" himself before that body if he so desired.

Sustaining The Court

[illegible]

The dignity of the judicial process was upheld Friday when a clear majority of the Alabama Supreme Court sustained the action of a Jefferson County circuit court judge in declaring a Ku Klux Klan official in contempt for refusing to give a Grand Jury Klan records.

The decision means, what should never have been in doubt, that the courts are superior to the Klan. But, more fundamental, it also means that the right of organizations to maintain secret membership rolls is contingent upon their conduct and upon events in general. Happenings of the last few months in this area, regardless of the extent [of] the direct guilt of the Klan, have deprived the robed and hooded order of a clear claim to secrecy.

If the Klan's hands are clean in regard to the floggings that have taken place, it ought not to resist further Grand Jury demands for a look, by the jury, at Klan membership rolls.

Weakness At The Core

Floggings such as those which have been blackening Alabama's reputation in recent months are at their worst when defended as the administration of justice. For crimes of this nature substitute a rule of men for the rule of law which is the soul of justice. These mobsters appear at their blackest when they take the law out of the hands of duly constituted authorities and apply it without giving the defendants one iota of that protection which judicial procedure throws around the accused.

This aspect of the floggings becomes all the darker when among those accused of participating in them are officers duly sworn to uphold and support the law. Men rapidly and dangerously lose trust in the law when its agents flout it. Officers of the law, above all other citizens, should strive always to maintain the dignity and the power of legal and judicial processes.

These facts make it all the more unpleasant to read that among the 14 persons indicted by the recent Grand Jury for offenses connected with floggings are three law enforcement officers, and one who was an officer at the time of his alleged offense. Still a fifth person is an employe of the Birmingham municipal government, and as such should have a special respect for legal procedure.

These men may or may not be guilty of the offenses charged. That is for trial courts to determine. But they stand today under suspicion, and the very nature of their official positions should have kept them above suspicion. Their position as defenders of the law should have kept them clear of such charges as they now face.

Among those indicted were a chief of police and a policeman of Brookside, a constable at Flat Creek, a former special deputy of Jefferson County, and an employe of the city government. They all may be innocent, but the cloud under which they rest today raises a strong question of their usefulness in their positions. There is no place in the picture of American justice for public employes who stand formally charged with such crimes.

The public is justified in wondering how far this weakness has entered into law enforcement agencies of the county. How many other officers of the law may condone floggings? How many others may view with toleration the spectacle of citizens taking the law into their own hands? We have a right to expect that the sheriff's office and all municipal police departments will so act from here on as to rid themselves of any suspicion under which any of them now rest in some minds.

The Law And The People

The protection of the law is a primary essential to the security and peace of mind of us all.

The terrible thing that has come to this area in recent days is a widespread fear that our people do not have that protection in adequate degree.

Any such feeling is intolerable. There can be no satisfactory living when such fear prevails.

It would have seemed scarcely conceivable that such uneasiness as has recently developed hereabouts could come in this day anywhere in America.

This paper would not incite excessive fear or undue alarm. On the other hand, it believes it is imperative to the public interest that our people generally be alert to the dangers of our situation. Homes have been invaded. Human beings, including a woman and a boy, have been maltreated. Beatings have been administered. Threats have been made. Crosses have been burned. Businesses have been disrupted. Houses have been bombed.

Where such things happen, there is bound to be a profound disturbance of the sense of safety and order under which Americans are accustomed to live—to which, indeed, they are so accustomed that they take it for granted. Great numbers of our people must have had that feeling horribly shaken lately.

For these things have happened and there has been no sufficient assurance that they would or could be promptly stopped and that the guilty would be found and punished.

So far there have been no arrests.

* * *

So long as such outrages can occur without real assurance of the establishment of adequate protection under the law, literally intolerable conditions prevail.

Not least among the causes of apprehension is the danger that lawless elements will be encouraged to multiply their activities.

We would not minimize the difficulties involved in finding and convicting such criminals. But such difficulties cannot be permitted to stand as a justification for helplessness. Effective assertion of the rule of law must come to restore assurance of essential public security.

Of course we realize that outbreaks of mob lawlessness have occurred before in American communities. But the sequence of events in this area has produced a very extraordinary series of the kind of incidents that simply must not be trifled with. And communities find their basic protection against such things by immediate and decisive action to end them.

That is what is needed in this community.

Direct and inescapable responsibility lies on law enforcement officials. But all good citizens have their own summons to support such efforts.

No assumption of wrongdoing on the part of other persons justifies gang action outside the law. That way lies the danger of riot and anarchy and the undermining of the fundamental safeguards of our peace, safety and freedom.

No claim of imperfection in the functioning of the law warrants trampling on it. For only in lawful processes can real security be maintained. Action outside the law involves dangers far greater than those it would purport to check.

The law and the vast majority of people who believe in law must assert their sovereignty—unmistakably, conclusively, and promptly.

The law must prevail. Its enforcement must be beyond doubt.

Grand Jury Action!

Judge Robert J. Wheeler yesterday called the Jefferson County Grand Jury into special session. Hopes for apprehension of persons guilty of hooded raids in this area are raised.

Despite the many encouraging evidences of our citizens' concern, and despite the anti-masking action of the Legislature, arrest and conviction of individuals responsible for hooded attacks in this district remains an urgent goal.

Solicitor Emmett Perry reports that evidence gathered by the state's investigators and by county authorities will be turned over to the Grand Jury, which begins its hearings Friday morning.

State investigators apparently have been reporting both to Montgomery and to the solicitor.

The Grand Jury had been instructed to stand by. Now the actual call signals a significant new development. Law and order remain the challenge, and our people should be more determined than ever to follow through to that end.

Arrest and conviction of masked mobsters is fundamental to full protection against recurrence of such outrages.

People Of Clay County Silent Behind Curtain Of Fear

ASHLAND, Ala., July 1—Fear that freezes the heart and stills the tongue grips Clay County.

Nobody trusts anybody.

Members of the Negro race speak only to one another.

The white man questions his friend with silent glances.

Nobody is quite sure the fellow he meets on the street or visits at his home isn't a member of some mob.

* * *

THE NEGRO IS SPEAKING only to known friends. He is dodging the white man as much as possible. It is the same way in Lineville.

Negro leaders in both cities have instructed their people to talk to nobody. Ministers have preached from the pulpit that "there is nothing we can do but be careful."

A white man riding through the Negro quarters of the two cities seldom sees a Negro. He never sees one if the Negro sees him first.

It is a reign of terror that former Klansmen say never was equalled when the Klan was riding high, wide and brutally in the 1920s.

It has been going on here for only a short while. It was only about three months ago that a hooded organization began parading openly.

The identities of members of this organization are not know to members of the law enforcement officers of this county, or the two Methodist ministers who started the investigation.

One Negro leader, whose permission was required before interviewing one of the victims, declared it wouldn't be so "bad if we know just who they are."

"But they don't know who they are," he said.

"It is like fighting in the dark at something you can't see and can't touch."

SOME WHITE RESIDENTS OF THE two towns feel the same fear. It is believed that several white residents of the county have been marked for floggings.

Some other white people, however, appear to be uninterested in the brazen terrorism. Some, including an Ashland police officer, have been heard to remark that "Well, the Klan has done a lot of good."

Some prominent citizens of Ashland are fed up with the situation.

One of the small town's leading merchants witnessed a near tragedy in which a gang of men fired on a Negro.

The Negro ran through a corn patch and was not hit.

The merchant is keeping his story to himself because it could happen to him. Furthermore he is in business here and fears a boycott.

Leaders of the Negro community in Lineville have asked victims of floggings in that area not to let newspapers take their pictures because they don't want their faces to become too well known. They say "accidents could happen too easily."

Some leading citizens here are hopeful that state investigators will unmask the gangs and restore freedom of "thought and movement."

Klan Guarding Costs Deputy His Job

A former constable of Precinct 19 has been relieved of his special deputy's commission by Sheriff Holt A. McDowell after admitting that he acted as a guard at a Ku Klux Klan meeting in Adamsville.

C. A. Lollar, 34, a Navy veteran of South Pacific combat, said he was paid $5 to watch cars while Klansmen held a meeting in a lodge hall at Adamsville Friday night.

Lollar said it was the fifth time he had served as guard at similar meetings.

B'ham News

State investigators moved in on the meeting and identified Lollar as a man who covered the tags of the parked autos with newspapers.

Lollar said he had [illegible] instructed "if anybody comes [illegible]snooping around, don't let 'em get the tag numbers of the cars unless it's the law."

B'ham * Ala

THE NAVY VET, who denies he is a Klan member, said he did not know the state men were law enforcement officers when he covered the tags.

The state officers quoted Lollar as saying "if this was county officers it would be a different story."

When asked about that statement by Sheriff McDowell he shouted his denial.

Jun. 6-19-49

Lollar, a mine operator at Praco, said he is not and never has been a member of the K. K. K.

"I don't uphold anything those mobs do, especially the beating of women."

He said he is a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and expected to help that organization "fight the Klan."

6-18-49

LOLLAR SAID HE served two years as constable of Precinct 19 before going into service. The father of two children, he said he made 13 amphibious landings in the Pacific.

Lollar said he did not wish to give newsmen the name of the man he said hired him to watch the cars.

Sheriff McDowell said Lollar told him the man's name was Bret Brasfield.

Lollar said he was not sure the meetings were Klan meetings but "thought they were."

* * *

STATE OFFICERS said when they approached the parking area they saw one lookout armed with a pistol. When the officers climbed from their car they said the armed man put his hand on his gun and backed into the shadows with three other sentries.

6-19-49

Officers took automatic weapons from their cars and approached.

Lollar identified himself, they said, and told them he went by the name of "Brownie."

* * *

THE OFFICERS checked the numbers of 17 automobile tags covered with newspaper. Records showed, they said, that the tags were issued to the following persons:

J. A. Hogge, Route 1, Quinton; W. M. Walker, Route 2, Dora; R. O. Whitley, Route 3, Box 42, Birmingham; L. E. Garrett, Jr., 1840 Princeton Court, Birmingham; V. B. Brasfield, 513 Fifth Street, Birmingham; George W. Hood, Route 1, Quinton; Felix Howton, Labuco; Gettis Woodall, 916 46th Street, Belview Heights; Hobert Bonds, Praco; A. C. Doggett, 7105 Second Avenue, South, Birmingham; R. J. Lollar, Roy G. Landrum and W. G. Early, all of Route 1, Quinton; Mrs. George A. Parker, Dora; Brownie Lollar, Flat Creek, and C. Dozier, Sumiton. 6-19-49

Officers quoted Lollar as saying the area was a Klan parking place.

Lollar told newsmen he had been approached to join the Klan but had refused.

Special Deputy Sheriff Found on Sentry Duty For Ala. Klan Meeting

The Constitution, Atlanta, Ga. Jun. 6-19-49

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—(AP)—State investigators found a special deputy sheriff serving as a sentry for a Ku Klux Klan meeting at nearby Adamsville.

The sentrv. C. A. (Brownie) Lollar, 34, surrendered his badge to Sheriff Holt McDowell yesterday.

Lollar told reporters he was not a member of the Klan but had been employed to "watch cars at the meetings." He said he had guarded automobiles at five such meetings.

Jun. 6-19-49

Klansmen attending the meeting were not robed.

The State investigators were sent here by Gov. Folsom after three outbreaks of mob violence involving robed and hooded men. A 31-year-old Navy veteran was flogged Monday night and a 42-year-old woman and a cafe operator threatened and forced to watch burning crosses in separate incidents a week ago.

All three incidents involved white persons.

The investigators, who declined to permit use of their names, said they found automobile license plates covered at the Klan meeting place. That is prohibited by State law.

The investigators were heavily armed.

Lollar told reporters at the Sheriff's office he had been instructed not to allow snoopers to "get the tag numbers of the cars."

Sheriff McDowell said Lollar was issued a "courtesy commission" as a deputy sheriff because Lollar operated a coal mine and handled a payroll. The commission permits its holder to carry a gun.

The State investigators gave this account of their raid:

They received an anonymous telephoned tip that the Klan group at Adamsville was planning a raid. They drove there in two automobiles and found a number of cars parked in front of a two-story frame building. That was about 8:30 p. m.

Two men were sitting in one of the cars. They leaned out of their vehicle and inspected the officers' cars, then jumped out and ran into the store.

The investigators drove on through the community, then turned back.

As they returned they found the sentries had been doubled. One had a pistol on his hip. All were in regular clothes. Two of the men were covering the license plates of the parked cars.

The officers stopped and climbed out of their cars. The armed man put his hand on his pistol and said:

Jun. 6-19-49

"Where are you going, buddy?"

As he touched the pistol, the investigators reached into their cars and pulled out a submachine gun, carbine, shotgun and other firearms.

They asked the lookout if he was authorized to wear a gun.

"I've got a commission," he answered, and showed a special deputy's commission issued in 1947. It bore the name of Sheriff Holt McDowell.

"Isn't it against the rules of the Klan to wear a gun?" the officer asked. He replied, "Yes, but a fellow has to take care of himself."

The man then identified himself. Two of the other sentries started tearing the covers from the license plates. The officers ordered them to quit, then took the tag numbers of 17 covered license plates.

Lollar again was asked why he was armed. He said he had thought the officers were "kids" and had the gun to "scare the kids."

He said he took full responsibility for covering the license plates and the investigators had him sign a statement to that effect.

Lollar then told the officers: "If this was county officers, it would be a different story."

The investigators told Lollar the Governor has ordered the Attorney General to study means of revoking the charter of organizations that use hoods. He answered:

"Then that would mean the end of the Klan because they couldn't go on raids without their hoods. And I think the best thing for me to do is get out. This will be my last night."

Citizens Continue To Demand Action

The News Birmingham, Ala.

Aroused Legionnaires and men and women's civic groups continued their cry today for county officers to halt the hooded and robed mobs which have moved at will in Jefferson County during the past month.

Strongly worded resolutions condemned the sheriff's office as having "failed miserably" in the job. And Gorgas Post No. 1, American Legion has indicated that it is far from satisfied with the sheriff's answer to their strong resolution adopted yesterday. It called for immediate action and said the sheriff's office has either "failed or refused" to bring anyone to trial for the acts of violence.

6-21-49

*

THE BIRMINGHAM Junior Chamber of Commerce today voted to appoint a committee which will work with other organizations to stamp out mob violence here.

The action came after a speech by Newspaper Man John Temple Graves II. He dealt at length with recent mob beatings here.

Mr. Graves said that despite Klan denial of any guilt in the raids, the very existence of the Klan encourages them. "We are not going to be satisfied until someone is behind good old Alabama iron bars," he said. Jue. 6-21-49

John P. Newsome, past president of the Birmingham Kiwanis Club, today asked all members of the club to turn out for the mass meeting at 4 p.m. tomorrow at the County Courthouse.

He said, "It is the duty of every decent citizen to see that all law and order is maintained." He said a "Committee of 500" to be formed tomorrow will be made up of representatives of every religious, civic, industrial and business group.

Mr. Newsome added that the committee will urge maintenance of law and order through existing law agencies.

The Young Men's Business Club of Birmingham adopted a resolution which said in part, "Our established law enforcement agencies have failed miserably in the prevention of these unlawful acts."

It demanded the sheriff and other agencies take "immediate steps leading to the arrest, prosecution and conviction of guilty parties."

Public action first became aroused two weeks ago when hooded and robed men broke into the home of a Westwood woman and forced her to watch a cross burn in her yard. Later that night the same gang invaded a small Brookside cafe and burned crosses.

The Legion picked up the cudgel last week when Billy Guyton Stovall, a Northside Navy veteran was snatched from his home and children.

During the past week, newspaper men have uncovered at least nine other mob victims.

Friday night state investigating officers discovered a special Jefferson County deputy standing guard over cars parked outside a Ku Klux Klan meeting at Adamsville.

* * *

IN ANOTHER DEVELOPMENT, a Birmingham Post reporter was knocked down while conducting an investigation of night riders at Sumiton, Ala.

"These steel-building occupants pull the strings and their marionettes jump about like the puppet-show actors they are. These poor, misguided puppets don't seem to realize that it is for the purpose of frightening the economic group to

guy Stallworth drove up in front of my place. I thought he was a gas customer and asked him how many he wanted. Jue. 6-21-49

"He told me, 'I'm looking for a fellow named Fowler,' and I asked him which one, Roscoe? He said that was the one.

"Well, Fowler was in the back of my place reading a newspaper. This guy Stallworth brushed past me into the back and sat down on the desk where the radio was playing. I was standing in the front door about 35 feet away.

"I couldn't hear the conversation much and I wasn't trying to listen. All at once I heard a big thunder. The tables were knocked around and a lot of stuff knocked off them. I went back and asked what the matter was.

"The two of them broke it up for a while. Then Stallworth stepped to one side. Then he made a pass at me. Then he tried to get away. I didn't even know what the trouble was. I never even saw the guy before in my life. He ran away, he left his car and I never saw him again. I didn't discover until later that he was a newspaper man.

FOWLER SAID:

"I was looking over the paper to see who was playing ball.

"Somebody walked into the store and asked if Fowler was in there. The store manager, Glenn Godfrey, said one of the Fowlers was back there.

"The man came back then and said he was Stallworth with a Birmingham paper. He said he was checking up on Klan activities and wanted me to give him some information. I said I was not a member of the Klan, knew nothing about it and wasn't going to have anything to do with it.

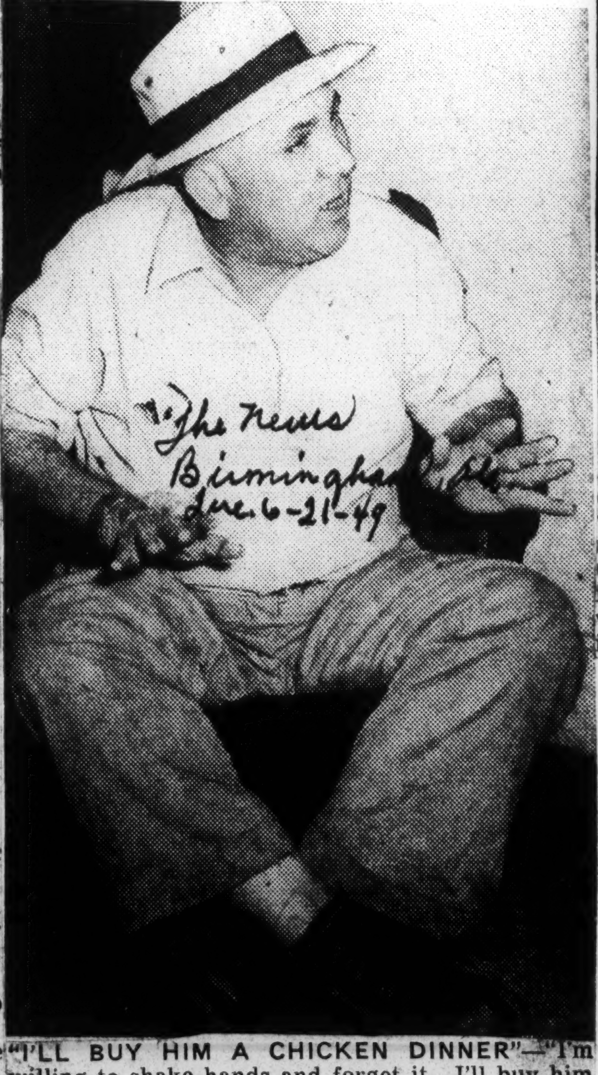
"Then he called me a damn liar and I hit him with my fist for all I had. Mr. Godfrey was up in front of the store. Stallworth and I wrecked his store. I hit him and he hit me. He is a good man physically, I'll say that for him.

"He reached back to hit Godfrey and Godfrey complained about him starting a fuss in his place of business. I don't know whether Godfrey threw a hammer at him or not.

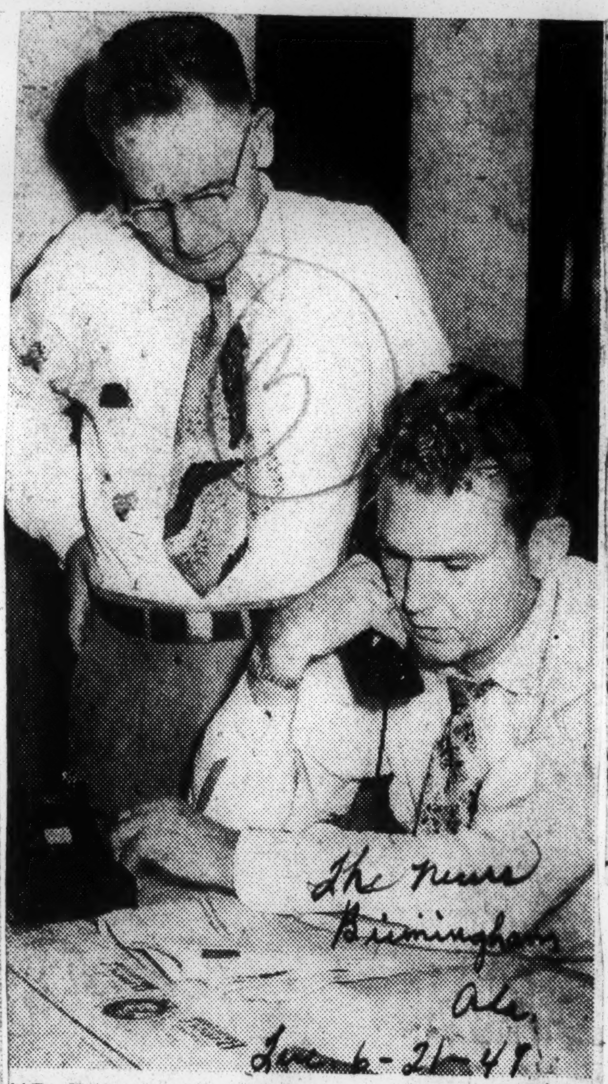
"DURING THE ALTERCATION, Stallworth broke loose and ran out of the store. He caught a bus."

Mr. Fowler said he is a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, a member of the American Legion and a Mason. He said he is not a member of the Ku Klux Klan.

Godfrey and Fowler will face trial in Walker County during the first week in August.



"I'LL BUY HIM A CHICKEN DINNER"—"I'm willing to shake hands and forget it. I'll buy him a chicken dinner," Roscoe Fowler (above), Sumiton Navy veteran, declares. Fowler is under $300 bond on a warrant of assault and battery sworn out by Clark Stallworth, reporter for The Birmingham Post. Stallworth said the 240-pound Navy veteran knocked him down at Sumiton yesterday while he was attempting to get information in connection with night riding activities.



HE TELLS HIS STORY — Clark Stallworth (above, seated), reporter for The Birmingham Post, is shown using the telephone in the sheriff's office at Jasper last night. Stallworth said he was knocked down while attempting to investigate night riders at Sumiton. Walker County Sheriff Grover B. Baggett (standing) is also shown. Sheriff Baggett had just returned from Montgomery, where he faces impeachment proceedings charging neglect of duty and corruption in office.

Brookside Officer, Employe For City Among Bonded

The News, Birmingham, Ala.

Brother-In-Law Of Veteran Stovall, One Of Victims, Arrested; Flogging Cases Are Kept In Lieu Of $1,000 Bond

Sat. 7-11-49

Ten persons had been arrested by 2 p.m. today on Grand Jury indictments growing out of mob violence.

Among those arrested were the Brookside chief of police, a city employe and the brother-in-law of William Guyton Stovall, one of the flogging victims.

Arrested were: Police Chief Elmer Brock, of Brookside, charged with neglect of duty and intimidation of a witness.

Brock made $600 bond.

Robert Chambliss, 45-year-old city of Birmingham garage repairman, charged with flogging while masked.

William A. Byrd, of Route 7, brother-in-law of Navy Veteran Billy Stovall, who was flogged by masked men, charged with flogging while masked.

(See Picture, Page 2)

Melvin Fields, Route 7, charged with flogging while masked. His indictment grew out of the flogging of Billy Rochester at Coalburg.

Albert Swindle, 32, of Praco, charged with boycotting, flogging while masked and first degree burglary. Bond on the boycotting charge was set at $1,000; bond on the flogging charge, $1,000. No bond was allowed on the burglary charge.

The Charges:

Flogging while masked: felony, punishable by imprisonment one year and a day to 10 years in prison.

First degree burglary: a capital offense punishable by not less than 10 years imprisonment to death.

Intimidation of witness: misdemeanor, punishable by $1,000 fine or up to one year imprisonment or both.

Neglect of duty: misdemeanor, punishable by fine only, not more than $1,000.

Boycotting, misdemeanor, punishable by fine of from $100 to $1,000 and imprisonment up to six months.

Ku Klux Klan To Descend On State Legislature Today To Fight Anti-Mask Bill

Discrimination Is Claimed By KKK

By JOE AZBELL

Ku Klux Klansmen — without their robes and masks — will descend on Montgomery this morning in an attempt to hammer down a Senate-approved anti-masking bill.

The Klan advocates will be here for the House Judiciary Committee's public hearing at 9 a.m. on the anti-masking measure sponsored by Senator Henry Mize, of Tuscaloosa. The bill—if enacted—will make the wearing of masks, except on specified occasions, a criminal offense.

"Discrimination" Claimed

Leaders of the Federated Ku Klux Klan of Alabama, who arrived here yesterday, said the anti-masking bill is "discriminatory and unconstitutional."

Dr. E. P. Pruitt, of Birmingham, chairman of the board of governors of the Federated Ku Klux Klan, said last night he hopes to attend the hearing today. Dr. Pruitt said his wife has been ill and he did not know definitely whether he could attend.

Attorneys have been retained by the Klan to present its cause before the committee.

"We are not quitters," Pruitt said. "We are going to defend ourselves."

Other Klansmen—from Tuscaloosa, Birmingham, and Talladega—are expected for the hearing.

Two men who said they are members of the board of governors of the Federated Ku Klux Klan of Alabama, already were working for defeat of the bill here yesterday. They are William Hugh Morris, of Birmingham, and the Rev. Alvin Horn, of Talladega, a Baptist minister.

Nelson Opposes Bill

Rep. E. E. Nelson, of Clay County, joined the Klansmen in opposing the bill. Nelson, who is a high school teacher at Brantley, said he is against the bill, "because the Klan doesn't want it, and I don't want to do anything the Klan doesn't want."

A Birmingham attorney, L. C. Allbright, said he has not been a Klan member since the early 1920's but would testify as an independent citizen before the committee.

He said the anti-masking bill would "besmudge the names of many reputable citizens, whom I have a right to belive had no more to do with those cases reported in Birmingham newspapers than I had and I know I had nothing to do with them."

Morris, claiming he was "proud" to be a member of the Klan's board of governors, said the bill was "discriminatory and would be declared unconstitutional by the State Supreme Court."

The Rev. Horn, who claimed to be a member of the Coosa River Baptist Association, said he would tell the judiciary committee today "all about the Klan and its recent activities." He declared "I do not want to see a return to carpetbag government and Negroes running things."

If any representatives of the Original Southern Klans, Inc., of Columbus and Macon, Ga., show up at the hearings, as they are expected to do, it is believed that they might be corralled and questioned by the attorney general's staff. Alabama laws require foreign corporations, such as the Southern Klans, Inc., to name an agent, place of business, and file corporation papers to transact business in Alabama. The penalty for not complying is $1,000.

The Southern Klans, Inc., which has been operating along the Georgia-Alabama border, has not registered its agent, place of business, or filed corporation papers with the secretary of state.

Supporters of the Mize measure gained extra strength this week. The Alabama Veterans of Foreign Wars unanimously endorsed the Mize anti-masking measure at its state convention here Monday.

In Tuscaloosa, Commissioner Frank Livingston, president of the Alabama Local Government League, said, "I think the Mize anti-masking bill ought to be passed." Livingston pointed out that in his opinion, all laws governing such serious offenses, should be statewide, rather than local in nature.

The bill also received solid endorsement by the entire Tuscaloosa City Commission.

Called "Best Weapon"

Jefferson County's Sheriff Holt McDowell called the Mize Bill, the "best weapon" that could be put into the hands of Alabama law enforcement officers at this time.

Montgomery County's Sheriff Addie Mosley said, "I am against anyone wearing masks going out and taking the laws into their own hands. I believe in law enforcement according to laws—not according to a bunch of masked riders."

Members of Montgomery City Commission said they were completely in favor of the Mize anti-masking bill. Mayor John Goodwyn pointed out the City of Montgomery has an ordinance that prohibits the wearing of masks in parade, demonstrations, etc.

Governor Folsom, who is strongly in favor of the bill, has sent special messages to the House of Representatives calling upon the lawmakers to enact anti-masking legislation so that "Alabama can tell the world, she will not tolerate acts of lawlessness."

Folsom said present laws are not adequate to cope with the situation.

Girls' State Approves

The 125 delegates to Girls' State last week unanimously passed the Mize anti-masking bill in one of their government sessions.

Amendments to strengthen and extend the scope of the Mize bill were being considered here yesterday. Some groups wanted the bill to provide felony, instead of misdemeanor punishment. Then, a convicted violator of the act, once it is enacted, could be sent to the penitentiary.

Punishment under the bill, as it stands, limits fines to $500 and jail sentences to 12 months.

Already many representatives are predicting the House will speedily pass the measure.

A bill to prohibit two or more persons, masked or otherwise, from entering the premises of another to interfere with business was introduced in the Senate yesterday.

The measure was introduced by Senators Paul Hooton, of Randloph, James S. Coleman, Jr., of Greene, and Preston Clayton, of Barbour. It would provide a fine of not more than $1,000 and not more than 12 months imprisonment for violators.

The bill is the same one which was offered as an amendment to the anti-masking measure, but was ruled out by Lt. Gov. J. C. Inzer because it was not germane.

Punishment as a felony from one to ten years imprisonment already is provided for persons convicted of floggings or beatings, while masked. This is pointed out under Title 14, Section 15.

There is also a statute against assault with intent to maim. A person convicted of this offense may be sentenced to serve from two to ten years in the penitentiary.

Robed Mob Beat 3 Women, 2 Men, Ala. Probers Told

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—(UP)—Chief Deputy Herman Treece, of nearby Walker County, said last night that he "understands" a mob in white robes beat three women and two men near Dora, Ala., several weeks ago.

Dora is about 30 miles northwest of this city where veterans and civic groups are aroused over four recent acts of violence by hooded raiders.

Treece said no official complaint had been made about the Dora beatings and he had few details. He "understands," he said, that the women beaten were warned to leave town.

On the same night as the reported beatings, Treece said, about 20 carloads of robed figures paraded through the streets of Dora, a small mining community.

All of the other recent beatings and intimidations by sheeted men have been reported in Jefferson County, of which Birmingham is the seat. Walker County lies next to Jefferson.

Carl K. Wells, temporary chairman of an American Legion committee to combat crime and violence, announced that a meeting will be held this morning. Representatives of the Legion, the Jewish War Veterans, the American Veterans of World War II, the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Disabled American Veterans will discuss what action to take in the face of continued mob activity.

A special State investigator, assigned to aid county authorities stamp out the night-riders, said that a flood of telephone calls had followed Gov. James E. Folsom's request that any evidence of gangs or threats be reported.

Many were apparently phoney, the investigator said, but the mother of five children said she had been warned "the Klan is coming to see you and your husband." The warning was given Saturday afternoon by an unidentified woman, and, Mrs. Felix E. Thomas reported. Her husband is a truck driver.

The Nation And Indictments

B'ham News

Southerners generally will be encouraged by the action of the Jefferson County Grand Jury in indicting alleged participants in mob actions.

Immediately following publication of Grand Jury indictments a few days ago, press services carried the news to all points in the nation. What use was made of those reports? Did the press of the country prove it was interested only in what was "bad" about the South, by hiding such reports? Or did it print boldly the news of Southerners themselves reestablishing in firm fashion the rule of law, the maintenance of human dignity?

B'ham, Ala.

Here is a list of newspapers of Sunday, July 10, 1949, giving allocation of headline space devoted to flogging indictments in Jefferson County. It is recommended reading.

Miami Herald, one column, Page 1.

Des Moines Register, two columns, Page 3

Louisville Courier-Journal, one column Page 1.

Mon. 7-18-49

Jackson Daily News, seven columns Page 1.

Columbus Ledger-Inquirer, three columns Page 1.

Anderson, S. C., *Independent*, one column Page 1.

Chattanooga Times, three columns, Page 1

Atlanta Journal, four columns, Page 1.

Nashville Tennessean, eight columns Page 1.

Raleigh News and Observer, two columns, Page 1.

New Orleans *Times-Picayune*, one column, Page 21.

Arkansas Gazette, one column, Page 2.

Cleveland, Ohio, *Plain-Dealer*, eight columns, Page 1.

Milwaukee Journal, one column, Page 1.

Tampa Sunday Tribune, one column, Page 1.

Baltimore Sun, one column, Page 1.

St. Louis Post-Dispatch, four columns, Page 1.

Dallas Morning News, one column, Page 1.

Richmond Times-Dispatch, one column, Page 1.

The New York Times, one column, Page 1.

We believe an even more comprehensive survey would have indicated approximately the same degree of attention over the nation.

7-18-49

Any among us should be able to see that, if we act ourselves to make a better South, to rout out evil and lawlessness and injustice, the rest of the nation will take full notice of the fact.

But positive action—doing something about conditions—is required. The constant wail of "leave us alone" will produce little result.

Probe Is Asked Into Klan Jury

Advertiser
Montgomery, Ala.

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., July 17 —(AP)—An American Legion post here has asked the state attorney general to investigate a grand jury that delved into acts of hooded terrorism in this area.

The General Gorgas Post Number 1, one of the largest in the nation, asked yesterday that Atty. Gen. Albert A. Carmichael investigate the make-up and manner of selection of the present grand jury.

Mon. 7-18-49

This development came after Circuit Judge George Lewis Bailes revealed that a former Ku Klux Klansman belonged to the jury. Another jury member was permanently excused because of a court conviction several years ago.

The former Klansman was excused from any jury duty concerning the Klan, Judge Bailes said. He will continue to serve on non-Klan cases.

The American Legion post also asked why certain names on the jury panel were apparently excused before the grand jury was selected.

7-18-49

Sheriff Holt McDowell, commenting on the Legion request, said "we served 50 out of the 60-man panel. That is a good average from a two-year-old jury list."

"Of the 10 men not served, one, I understand, is dead, three or four have moved, and others were on vacation."

The jury recessed yesterday for six weeks without additional indictments.

Jefferson Judge Reveals Himself As Ex-Kluxer

Advertiser
Montgomery, Ala.

Bailes Admits Being In KKK From 1924-25 In Public Statement

Mon. 7-19-49

Jurist Since 1940

Coach At High School Is Arrested, Charged With Masked Flogging

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., July 18. —(AP)—A jurist who charged a grand jury to probe whippings by night riders announced today he is an ex-Ku Klux Klansman.

Judge George Lewis Bailes, who instructed the jury a week ago, said he was a member of the Klan in 1924 and 1925.

But, he added, "I have not been a member of the organization since 1925."

Judge Bailes explained that there had been inquiries about whether he was ever a member and he thought it best to make a public announcement.

Instructs Jury

He instructed the grand jury to look into "this business of night riders taking people out . . . and whipping them."

Bailes has been a judge here since 1940. Prior to that, he was county prosecutor and a practicing attorney.

7-19-49

The jury recessed last week, however, without additional indictments in the investigation of floggings, cross burnings and threats in this area.

17 Indicted

Seventeen persons were indicted July 9 by a previous grand jury.

The 17th of these, a high school football coach, was arrested today. He is Valcus C. McCluskey, 47, coach at West Jefferson High School.

McCluskey was charged with flogging while masked. He made $1,000 bond and was released. Deputy Troy Tate quoted McCluskey as saying he believed the charge against him arose from an incident on the high school grounds some time ago.

No date has been set for trials of any of the 17 men indicted. Under normal court procedure, they would be set for the fall term beginning in September.

Second Announcement

Bailes' announcement today was his second regarding Klan membership and the investigation of mob violence. Last week the judge disclosed that a member of the grand jury had been excused from certain cases because of former Klan membership.

7-19-49

The juror, Alexander Brewis of Gardendale, Ala., was excused by the jury foreman.

One witness before the jury was William Hugh Morris, director of the Federated Ku Klux Klan, now in his 11th day in jail on a contempt of court citation.

Klan Officer Still In Jail; Sees Attorney

B'ham News
B'ham, Ala.

The Jefferson County Grand Jury is expected to return between 28 and 32 indictments in masked violence cases.

A report is expected early tonight.

William Hugh Morris, Klan leader sentenced to jail for contempt of court for his refusal to furnish Klan records to the Grand Jury, spent the day in and out of the jury room.

Morris was closeted with the grand jurors all afternoon after being questioned in the secret session for several hours this morning.

Sheriff Holt McDowell and Deputy Sheriff Troy Tate were within calling distance of the Grand Jury this afternoon.

McDowell spent most of the morning outside the Grand Jury doors and returned at 2 p.m. after a luncheon recess.

Fri. 7-8-49

NO INDICATION was given as to whether or not the sheriff or any other law enforcement officers would be called into the Grand Jury room.

Morris was perspiring after his luncheon in jail, but was smiling and jovial as he greeted other officers of the Ku Klux Klan in the courthouse corridors. He was taken to the Grand Jury room by Tate, his guard.

Morris went into the Grand Jury room alone, and a few minutes later Miss Mary McDevitt, secretary in the solicitor's office, was called into the Grand Jury room. She took her notebook.

Morris was sentenced yesterday by Judge Robert J. Wheeler to the County Jail until he produces data asked by the Grand Jury.

Morris conferred with Hugh Locke his attorney, for more than an hour this morning.

Locke, who said he had been retained "to give legal advice on the question of contempt," emerged from the conference with Morris and said he had no comment.

Locke indicated there would be no immediate legal move.

* * *

THIS CAUSED SPECULATION in courthouse corridors as to whether any legal move will be made for an appeal by Morris to a higher court.

7-8-49

Locke emphasized he had been asked to give advice only on the question of the contempt phase.

There was a division of opinion **in legal circles as to whether a Circuit Court judge can lodge the person in jail indefinitely for contempt of court in such a case.**

It was pointed out that this has been done in alimony cases, but courthouse attaches said they recalled no case where a judge has placed a person in jail indefinitely for failure to give testimony or to produce evidence.

While Locke was consulting with Morris, E. E. Campbell, exalted cyclops of the Robert E. Lee Klavern, was called into the conference

Morris Appears To Be Enjoying Jail Role

William Hugh Morris' experience in County Jail did not appear to be of the unhappy variety today.

When Deputy Sheriff Troy Tate took Morris back to the jail from the Grand Jury room at 1 p.m., the portly Klan leader joked and laughed with a group of fellow Klan officials in the corridors of the courthouse.

Ku Klux Klan Klavern No. 7 at Sylacauga sent Morris some flowers.

Morris appeared to be enjoying his role.

Locke said he had not been consulted by Morris or Klan leaders for any legal advice other than the question facing Morris today.

Sending Morris to Jefferson County Jail yesterday, Circuit Judge Robert J. Wheeler told the Klan leader he would stay there until the records are produced.

There are indications the Grand Jury, called into special session last Friday, may be almost through with

Thursday, Mr. Carmichael said, Morris admitted having the records, "but he refused to produce them."

"In that way there would be no overlapping or duplication of duties. No board member thus would be able to state his duties

Klan business. If so, it undoubtedly will take up the North Smithfield bombing incident of March 24. On that night three Negro houses were bombed.

The Grand Jury voted several weeks ago not to adjourn so that it might hear further evidence on the bombings. The night riding was not then known to the public.

for, but felt he could not produce them "in good conscience."

YESTERDAY'S CONTEMPT hearing started shortly after 2:30 p.m., and created a minor sensation in the courthouse.

Alabama Atty. Gen. Albert A. Carmichael told the court Morris was served Wednesday with a subpoena duces tecum. That's an order for him to appear and directing him to bring certain listed documents to be turned over to the Grand Jury.

Judge Wheeler cited Morris for "direct contempt" after Morris told the court he had the records asked

7-8-49

and responsibilities are shared by another. It puts the responsibility right up to the individual members.

* * *

Policy Makers

"THE BOARD AS A UNIT should determine over-all policies.

"Board members should be appointed by the governor, with the Senate's approval, and should serve overlapping terms. The first board members under the new setup would be appointed for two, four and six years. Thereafter each suceeding appointees would be named for a term of six years.

"Board members should receive $7,500 a year each and should be full time state officials. They should be removable for the causes set out in the Hooton bill, among them malfeasance, inefficiency, favoritism, etc.

"Under the Hooton bill a six member legislative committee, three representing the House and three the Senate, would have authority to remove board members for any of the causes set out in the measure.

"The others who have studied the question of ABC Board reorganization do not favor that particular feature of the Hooton bill. Instead, they believe removal should be by the impeachment process. I'm inclined to agree with them.

* * *

$4,000,000 Fund

"THE HOOTON BILL does not include it, but a suggestion by Administrator R. P. McRee appears to be good.

"The ABC Board would be authorized to borrow $4,000,000 as working capital for purchasing stocks. Such an outlay would enable the board to buy state store

SCHOOL COACH HELD AS KLAN TERRORIST

N.Y. Times
New York

17 Rounded Up in Birmingham Area—Judge Once Member—Florida Negroes Guarded

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., July 18 (UP)—A high school football coach was arrested today on charges of participating in a masked flogging as officers completed the roundup of seventeen persons indicted for terrorism in the Birmingham area.

Alabama's mob violence, meanwhile, was disclosed to have extended to Fayette County, where warrants were sworn out against three men for flogging a farm youth. A second flogging also was reported from Fayette County.

Valcus C. McClucky, 47-year-old football coach and physical education instructor at West Jefferson County High School, was taken into custody on a flogging indictment when he returned from a Florida vacation with his wife, Margaret, who teaches at Minor High School. Mr. McCluskey had been in the Jefferson County (Birmingham) school system since 1942 and Board of Education authorities said his record was good.

Acquaintances said Mr. McCluskey lost a leg and an arm in an industrial accident when he was 18. He later attended Howard College in Birmingham and was graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in history. He also studied physical education and, using artificial lims, developed into a good coach and handler of men, School Board officials said.

Mr. McCluskey made 1,000 bond and it was disclosed that all of the sixteen terrorism suspects arrested before him also have been released on bail. They include Coleman A. Lollar, who once was identified as acting as lookout at a Ku Klux Klan meeting.

County jail wardens said that Mr. Lollor visited William Hugh Morris, state Ku Klux Klan director, at the prison today. Mr. Morris is under an indefinite contempt sentence for refusing to let a special grand jury look at the Klan roster for Jefferson County.

Mr. Lollar told wardens he talked with Mr. Morris on a business matter concerning the latter's roofing company.

Fayette became the fifth county to be identified with the mob outbreaks. W. W. Monroe, County Solicitor, said that warrants had been made out against Vick Hudson, Curt Espy and Leon Kimbrell, all of Fayette. 7-19-49

They were charged with assault and battery on Aubrey Pinion, 18, who said he was flogged with hickory limbs by three men posing as Klansmen. The three men were not masked, and deputies said the incident appeared to be the outgrowth of "a family fuss."

Mayor Fred J. Johnson said, however, that Cecil Rowan of Berry, the Fayette County community in which Pinion lives, also was beaten the same night by unmasked men.

Judge Once Klan Member

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., July 18 (AP)—Judge George Lewis Bailes, who charged a grand jury to probe whippings by night riders, announced today that he was once a member of the Ku Klux Klan.

Judge Bailes, who instructed the jury a week ago, said he was a member of the Klan in 1924 and 1925, but, he added, "I have not been a member of the organization since 1925."

He explained that there had been inquiries about whether he was ever a member and he thought it best to make a public announcement.

He has been a judge here since 1940. Prior to that he was county prosecutor and a practicing attorney. 7-19-49

Negroes Held in Secret Jail

GROVELAND, Fla., July 18 (AP)—The rape of a 17-year-old white woman and the robbery of her husband have been admitted by three Negroes being held for safekeeping in an undisclosed jail, Sheriff W. V. McCall said today.

National Guard troops were mobilized by Gov. Fuller Warren yesterday to maintain order after a heavily armed mob tried to take two of the Negroes out of jail at Tavares. They left today when the threat of voilence subsided.

"There may be demonstrations for another night or two, but I don't expect any violence," said George Mays, the police chief.

Sheriff McCall identified the accused as Charlie Greenlee, Samuel Shepherd and Walter Irvin, each about 20 years old. A fourth Negro is being sought.

Affidavits charging them with rape, kidnapping and causing bodily harm were sworn out today by the Sheriff.

Move Follows Hooded Raid On Northside

Bham News
Bham, Ala.
Wed. 6-15-49

Billie Guyton Stovall Says Men Flogged Him; Invade Home

A "shoot to kill" sanction came from the sheriff's office today after a young Navy veteran was kidnaped and flogged last night.

Billy Guyton Stovall, 31, 4112 North 31st Street, was snatched from his home and two small children about 11 p.m. by robed men, he told investigators. Before he was released, he felt the sting of a lash 20 times. 6-15-49

To stop the reign of terror by hooded bands which has struck three times in Jefferson County during the past four days, Sheriff Holt McDowell said:

"A person's home carries the sanctity of law. And that person is entitled to defend his home with whatever means it takes."

* * *

ASKED IF HE MEANT that as a "shoot to kill" sanction for home owners, Sheriff McDowell said, "That can be interpreted any way you wish."

To bolster county and state officers assigned to tracking down the hooded mobs, the Federal Bureau of Investigation will be asked for aid, the sheriff said.

"I have not invited them in before this because I did not know if they could come in. But I definitely will urge them to help us stamp out this lawlessness."

Stovall, a Navy veteran, was back at his job early this morning. He works at the McWane Cast Iron Pipe Company. He would not talk of the incident.

* * *

GEORGE D. KING, FBI agent-in-charge said this afternoon he had not yet been asked for aid in breaking up the robed mobs.

"All I can say now," Mr. King said, "is that all our local facilities are available for use by the sheriff. That applies also to our Washington laboratories."

He said he could not answer the question: "Will the FBI move into all of these cases if requested by the sheriff?"

* * *

THIS IS THE STORY told by Mrs. Stovall, Jimmy Stovall, 10, and Sheriff's Deputy Earl Cooper:

Between 11 and 11:30 p.m., when Stovall and the children were asleep, a man knocked on the front door. "This is Stewart. I want to see you," the man said.

When Stovall answered at the door, he was grabbed and dragged to one of three cars parked in front of his home.

Meanwhile, a hooded, robed figure walked into his house. He glanced at the two children. He looked around the house and asked, "Where is your mother?"

Jimmy replied, "She isn't here now." The man walked to one of the cars. Then he returned to the window and said, "If you get scared, go to your next door neighbor's house." 6-15-49

* * *

THE BOY ASSERTED that the man wore a white robe and had a hood over his face "with holes cut in it for eyes."

He added: "When he was in the house I saw his robe pulled up on one side. It was hanging over a gun—a pistol. He kept his hand on it all the time."

(Despite Jimmy's assertions, deputies said they did not believe the men he saw were members of the Ku Klux Klan. They said the men were described as wearing white aprons made of sack material. The deputies also said they did not believe the men were wearing masks.)

When the hooded man who spoke to the children returned to his car, the vehicles sped away. Mr. Stovall was kept on the floor of a back seat so he could not see where he was going. His wife said he told officers that either two or three of the men in the car with him wore some kind of mask.

"They took me off in the woods somewhere in the neighborhood of Tarrant City," his wife quoted him. "They took me out of the car into the woods." 6-15-49

Mrs. Stovall said her husband told officers the hooded men held him while one of their members struck him with a leather belt about an inch and a half wide. It was used on his back just above his hips.

The lashing did not break his skin, Mrs. Stovall said, but it did cause welts—"and must have hurt very much."

* * *

AFTER THE BEATING, he was led back to the car. He was let out near Tarrant City. From that point he caught a ride home with several youngsters.

Before they turned him loose, the hooded men warned him not to tell the newspapers—"or we'll be back again."

Mrs. Stovall, who works as a waitress from 4 p.m. to midnight at a North Birmingham cafe, said she arrived home shortly after work.

"I wondered what was wrong when I saw the door open," she said. "Jimmy told me, 'The Ku Klux Klan came and took daddy away.' I went to a neighbor's house and called the police. Our home is just outside the city limits. Police said they would call the sheriff's office for me."

Mr. Stovall returned to the home about 1:30 a.m., she said. Deputies arrived at the house shortly afterwards.

Officers who answered the call are Deputies Cooper and T. W. Docherty and Highway Patrolmen H. A. Johnson and Lonnie Atkins.

After reviewing their report this morning, Sheriff Holt McDowell said the incident is "a clear-cut case of kidnaping."

* * *

MEMBERS OF THE FAMILY said they could think of no reason for the lashing. Stovall was described as a "hard worker" who did "all kinds of extra work to support his family."

In addition to his job at the pipe company, he attends school three nights each week and works at a swimming pool two other nights each week.

Mrs. Stovall said she has been working to help out on family finances and to pay for a recent operation.

"I guess I'll quit now," she said. "I don't want to leave my children alone in case anything like this ever happens again."

In promising an all-out investigation of the kidnaping and lashing, Sheriff McDowell said: "I would not be surprised if continued raids result in hooded men being shot by frightened people."

The sheriff said reports from Deputies Docherty and Cooper stated they did not believe the lashing to have been done by the Ku Klux Klan. 6-15-49

The terrorists were dressed in white aprons or sashes rather than the type robe the Klansmen wear, the officers reported.

Sheriff McDowell quoted his deputies as saying the men were not masked.

THE DEPUTIES said that Stovall's skin was not broken by the lashing.

Last night's incident is the third act of terror by hooded gangs in four days.

Friday night a hooded gang invaded the home of Mrs. Hugh McDanal, a 42-year-old Westwood grandmother. They dragged her from her house, amidst threats, and made her witness the burning of a cross in her front yard.

On same night, hooded men burned a cross at a small Brookside cafe. They warned the owner, a member of the Russian Orthodox Church, "to keep down the niggers," and told him, "We're tired of the damned Catholics running this town."

Sheriff McDowell has assigned three deputies to investigate. In addition, Gov. Jas. Folsom sent five members of the State Bureau of Investigation and Identification to Birmingham to help the sheriff's office break up the mob violence.

OLDTIMERS AT the Courthouse

and City Hall said last night's lashing was the first by a hooded band since the 20s.

In adjoining Georgia, the Ku Klux Klan burned a cross atop Stone Mountain near Atlanta and initiated new members to the tune of "Onward Christian Soldiers" last night.

Alabama Papers Hit Outrages of Kluxers

Montgomery Examiner
Montgomery, Ala.

Bill Should Be Passed

The legislature is in session, and it is time for action. A bill to outlaw the wearing of masks should be passed immediately. It should be done without having to refer it to some committee or any of that kind of folderol. It should simply be introduced and passed by both houses and signed by the Governor. If ever God, home and native land called for anything at the hands of this state's lawmakers, it is a law with teeth in it, outlawing mask-wearing and night-riding in Alabama.

—DeKalb Times (Fort Payne)

Thur. 6-23-49

Blasting Kluxers

If our Governors, judges and law enforcement officers keep on joining the ranks of those opposed to the Ku Klux Klan something will be done about those terrorizing mobsters.

—Eufaula Tribune

A Stand Imperative

The States Rights movement in Alabama—through those who were in 1948 positions of leadership—should forthwith take a positive stand for the elimination of mob violence.

This newspaper favors—and believes the States Rights movement should favor—legislation which would make it illegal to wear masks in public in this state. We also favor laws which would provide heavy punishment for goonism of the sort displayed when an unmasked mob descended on a small, unorganized coal mine near Birmingham in a vicious orgy of violence and terrorism. Our legislature should act on these matters and act now.

—Talladega Home

Another Disgrace For Birmingham

Raids by hooded mobs are becoming more frequent in Birmingham and the last, their attack upon a 42-year-old grandmother, seems the most brutal of the lot. So far no apprehensions have been made of any of the mobsters, and until such is done and proper penalty invoked, Birmingham must bear the stigma of disgrace.

It seems that proper law enforcement alone stands between Birmingham and a great future, one in which every citizen of Alabama is interested.

—Sylacauga News

Anti-Mask Legislation

Alabamians have long taken pride in the accomplishments of their state. It is a state which has come a long way . . . culturally, industrially and socially. It is a state whose people are continually striving for improvements.

The current series of attacks by robed men in the Birmingham area should bring about long-needed local and state legislation toward outlawing the wearing of masks in the state.

Flagrant violations of human rights, such as flogging, threatening to kill, and the like, must be made legal violations too.

—Troy Messenger

Not Needed In Bibb

The Ku Klux Klan are causing quite a big stir over the state and in other Southern States. We still don't see any need of a Ku Klux Klan in Bibb County and we hope that the sensible people of this county will not help organize a Klan. Any organization that takes the law in its own hand and otherwise terrorizes the people is not needed in our county.

Thur. 6-23-49 *—Centerville Press*

Hooded And Armed Men

People have committed murder thinking they were doing God's will, people have been burned at the stake by religious fanatics who thought they were serving the Lord. Maybe some of the members of the robed, hooded and armed organization that invaded the locked home of Mrs. Hugh McDanal in Jefferson County last Friday night thought they were serving the best interest of Jefferson county.

The group of about 40 men was supposed to have been members of the K.K.K. At least there were the same regalia, the same cross burning, and other activities of the Klan. The Klan claims to stand for law and order. Breaking into the locked home of Mrs. McDanal was a violation of the Constitution of Alabama and the United States. The Klan claims to stand for Christianity. Was there any evidence of Christianity in striking a helpless woman over the head two or three times and dragging her out of her own home and threatening her before a burning cross?

—Jasper Mountain Eagle

Terror In Jefferson County

It is temptingly easy to sit back and say that the repulsive acts of terrorism committed by the Ku Klux Klan during the past week in the Birmingham area are no concern of ours here in the pastoral serenity of Sumter County.

Such is not the case, however.

A cancerous growth, sooner or later, affects the entire body. It must be ruthlessly cut out before it gains headway. We remember well the words of a former resident of Sumter who now lives in Birmingham: "Be assured, my friends, that in a society where the Catholic, the Negro and the Jew are not safe—there is no real safety for you."

Even worse than the depravities committed by these lunatics, however, is the failure of the constituted authorities to do anything about them. What is the reason for this failure? What is the explanation?

Might it be possible that many of the authorities take a sympathetic view of the ideas of the Klan mobsters? And how about the "authority" behind the authorities! We wonder.

—Our Southern Home (Livingston)

An Open Challenge

Although masked and robed bands have gotten away with several outrages against law and order in Alabama recently, we do not believe that they are going to get away with the flogging of Billy Guy Stovall, of Birmingham.

Stovall is an ex-service man of World War II and the cowardly attack in which he was given twenty lashes constitutes an open challenge to all veteran organizations of the state to step into the picture of hooded violence and force adequate action to stop it.

—Selma Times-Journal

Bar Police From Klan

If our legislature would pass a law making it unlawful for any policeman or other County official from holding office, who is a member of the Ku Klux Klan, perhaps flogging victims could get more protection. Not only that but the guilty could more easily be apprehended.

—Fort Payne Journal

TEST IN HIGH COURT IS SOUGHT BY KLAN

N.Y. Times

Official Is Still in Alabama Jail in Fight to Keep Secrecy of Membership List

New York

By JOHN N. POPHAM

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., July 17—Legal preparations were being completed today in a case that is designed to call on the United States Supreme Court to determine whether an organized Ku Klux Klan must produce its membership lists on demand of public officials.

The final outcome of the case could have wide effect in the southern states, where the Ku Klux Klan has been on the rise in the last two years. In Alabama, it is estimated, surrender of the Klan membership lists would strip the veil of secrecy from about 17,000 persons.

Mon. 7-18-49

Hugh Locke, attorney for William Hugh Morris, state director of the Federated Ku Klux Klan, Inc., said that he had been busy this afternoon "putting the finishing touches" to legal papers he will file "in the next few days" to seek the release of his client from a jail sentence imposed under a contempt of court conviction.

Meanwhile, Mr. Morris spent his eleventh successive day in a Jefferson County jail cell that has become fragrant with floral bouquets sent him almost daily by friends and followers in the various Klan Klaverns throughout the state.

Mr. Morris continued to tell newspaper men that he had no intention of producing the Klan membership lists asked for by a local grand jury that has been investigating acts of violence by hooded mobs in the Birmingham area.

On his third day in jail Mr. Morris told reporters, "I'm so contented here I could stay a hundred years," and yesterday he declared, "I'm still not saying anything and I'm forgetting more and more each day."

7-18-49

Mr. Morris refused to turn over Klan records to the grand jury, asserting that he regarded them as "just as secret as the secrets of the Masons or any other such organization." He repeated his refusal to Circuit Judge Robert J. Wheeler, who ruled that he must stay in jail until he made the documents available.

Mr. Locke applied to the State Supreme Court for a writ of certiorari requiring a review of the lower court's action. On Friday the court, by a vote of 4 to 2, denied the application, which had the effect of upholding the lower court decision.

Yesterday Mr. Locke said he would institute steps to carry the case to the United States Supreme Court. He said his plans called for applying within the fifteen-day time limit to the State Supreme Court for a rehearing on his review application.

If the rehearing application is turned down, as he expects, Mr. Locke said, he will apply to the United States Supreme Court for a writ of certiorari to review the action of the state tribunal on the ground that Mr. Morris' constitutional rights have been abridged.

The prosecution in the mob violence inquiry has attached great importance to gaining possession of the Klan membership lists in an obvious effort to prevent Klansmen from getting on juries that might hear evidence in the trials of seventeen persons recently indicted in connection with an outbreak of floggings and night-riding in Jefferson County, of which Birmingham in the county seat.

This phase of the inquiry was emphasized on Friday when it was disclosed that a second grand jury, which succeeded the first grand

jury after it returned the mob terrorism indictments, had a Klansman among its members.

After two days of confusion it was decided that the second grand jury was still a legally qualified body to hear evidence and the foreman of the grand jury arranged to excuse the Klansman member from sitting in cases involving Klan activities. However, at its own request the grand jury was recessed until Aug. 29, unless called into session on special order of the prosecutor.

7-18-49

Minister Denounces Klan

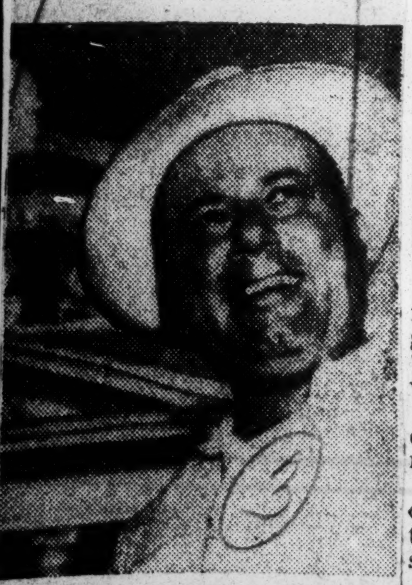
SOPERTON, Ga., July 17 (UP)—The Rev. W. R. Woodall denounced the Ku Klux Klan today as "a bunch of lawless cowards" following a revival of the hooded order's activities here last night.

Mr. Woodall, a Methodist and a veteran of World War II, told his congregation that the Klan's parade and cross-burning was "an insult to the integrity and decency of the peace-loving people of our community."

Two months ago Maj. James Peterson unmasked and arrested three Klansmen in the city streets. The three were later cleared of disorderly conduct and loitering charges in a municipal court.

This was the first demonstration here by the Klan since the court action. About 150 robed and hooded Klansmen paraded through town in a forty-car caravan. They set off a cross in the midtown area. Several cars had their license plates removed and others had them covered.

Refuses Records



WILLIAM HUGH MORRIS

Klansman Held For Contempt

Montgomery, Ala.

KKK Leader Is Jailed

Until Records Produced

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., July 7 —(AP)—A top-ranking Alabama Ku Klux Klan leader was jailed for contempt of court today. He refused to give Klan records to a grand jury.

Sentence was passed for an undetermined time on William Hugh Morris, director of the Federated Ku Klux Klans, Inc., when he refused in open court to produce the records.

Judge Robert J. Wheeler, who passed sentence, told Morris he would remain in jail until the records are produced.

In Session A Week

The grand jury has been in special session a week, delving into at least 14 recent whippings in Jefferson County. The floggings were blamed on night-riding bands of hooded, robed men.

Ku Klux Klan officials have denied any part in the acts of terror.

Fri 7-8-49

Morris, a Birmingham roofing contractor, testified before the jury yesterday and again this afternoon. After his appearance today, he and the jury filed into Judge Wheeler's court room.

Attorney General Albert Carmichael, who had been aiding in the inquiry, informed Judge Wheeler that Morris had refused to produce Klan records at the grand jury's request.

The judge then asked Morris whether he would bring the records into court. Morris, heavy set and balding, replied:

"I cannot see that this will help the investigation. I cannot in good conscience bring the documents."

Carmichael explained, in his presentation before Judge Wheeler, that the grand jury "has been investigating the Federated Ku Klux Klan" during its inquiry into acts of mob violence.

Identified As Member

He then identified Morris as a member of the Klan board of governors, and as a man with "supervisory powers over individual klaverns."

Morris told the court the records sought "are of confidential nature" and added:

"I do not feel that the Klan is on trial. Part of the secrets of the Klan are its secret memberships.

7-8-49

"The Klan is a fraternal, benevolent organization and we can furnishe proof of that. I will do anything humanly possible to help enforce the law, because that is part of my obligation as a citizen."

Unmasked Berry Victims

B'ham News

B'ham, Ala.

Tell Mayor

Mon. 7-18-49

BERRY, Ala., July 18—Three men were under $500 bond each here today after two men were taken out and flogged Friday night.

Mayor Fred J. Johnson said the lash victims were Cecil Rowan, 45, former resident of Berry, but recently of Chicago, and Aubrey Pinion, 18, Berry farmer.

Arrested shortly after the reported whiping were Vick Hudson, 33, night watchman at a local lumber company; Leon Kimbrell, 34, machine operator, and Curt Espy, 40, cab driver.

* * *

MAYOR JOHNSON said the victims reported they were picked up in Berry and taken to wooded sections where the men—unmasked—whipped them.

The victims told officers that the men identified themselves as "Klansmen."

"We don't need to put on a mask, because we don't mind people knowing who we are," Rowan and Pinion quoted the men as saying.

7-18-49

Mayor Johnson said that as far as he knew the men were not members of the K. K. K.

"This is just a grudge affair," he said. "It is a case of people trying to take the law into their own hands. I regret that such a thing happened here."

* * *

HUDSON AND KIMBRELL are charged with flogging Rowan. They face similar charges in the beating of Pinion. Espy was arrested in connection with the flogging of Pinion.

Mayor Johnson said he had been told by investigating officers that the three men had been drinking.

Pinion suffered a nose fracture and lash wounds. Rowan also suffered lash wounds.

They were arrested by Fayette County Sheriff Travis Lawrence.

Johnson said Hudson had served a prison sentence for flogging before the war.

* * *

MAYOR JOHNSON said several persons have reported to him that his name is on the list of the next men to be whipped in Berry.

The mayor said he didn't know whether this is true, but added, "It makes a man feel funny."

He said everything is well in hand in Berry; that he believes the men charged with the flogging "were just liquored up."

The mayor, 42, Army veteran, said he is going unarmed. He said he has the right to carry a pistol if he wants to.

Berry has just recently employed two full-time police officers. Mayor Johnson said the town formerly had only one policeman. He was dismissed and the two new men hired. The mayor said they were brought in to smash a liquor ring.

V. C. McCluskey, West Jefferson, Put Under Arrest

B'ham News

B'ham, Ala.

Mon. 7-18-49

Accused Of Lash Activity While Wearing Mask

Jailing of a West Jefferson High School athletic coach on a charge of flogging while masked climaxed today's events in the many-fronted fight on robed mob violence.

Valcus C. McCluskey, 47, the high school coach, was the 17th and last person to be arrested on indictments returned by the Spring Grand Jury which investigated night riders.

* * *

MEANWHILE ATTY. GEN. Albert A. Carmichael is expected to comment on an American Legion request that he investigate the selection of the Summer Grand Jury in Jefferson County.

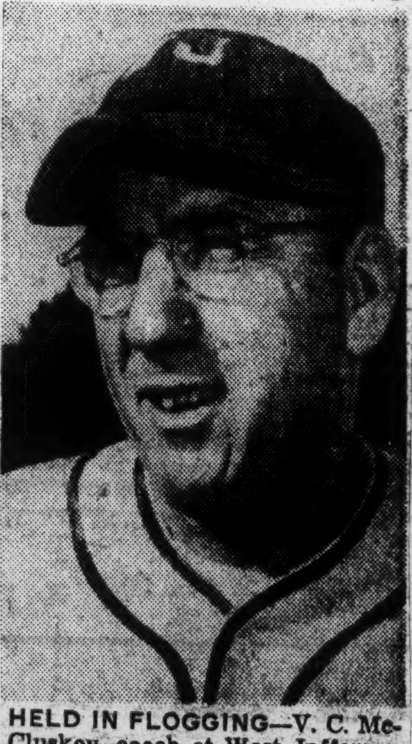
The request came from General Gorgas Post No. 1, the American Legion.

7-18-49

* * *

ON OTHER FRONTS of the many-sided investigation, the picture today was this:

1. Klan Leader William Hugh



HELD IN FLOGGING—V. C. McCluskey, coach at West Jefferson High School.

Morris remained in County Jail after the Alabama Supreme Court had upheld a direct contempt of court conviction against him.

2. Morris' attorney, Hugh Locke, said he would file a motion for rehearing before that body. If the rehearing is denied, he said, he will take the case to the U. S. Supreme Court.

7-18-49

3. The new commander of the American Legion in Alabama, Arch B. Ferrell, put the state department of the Legion solidly behind the action of the local post.

4. Some action will likely be taken this week to attempt to get bond fixed for Morris. Locke said he "would continue to fight this thing on all fronts."

5. The 17th and last arrest of persons indicted for mob violence by the Spring Grand Jury was made this afternoon.

Lollar Pays Visit To Morris In Jail

William Hugh Morris, Federated Ku Klux Klan director of activities, was visited in his County Jail cell today by Coleman A. (Brownie) Lollar.

Lollar, under indictment by a recent Grand Jury for taking part in hooded whippings in Jefferson County, told jail wardens he worked for Morris and wanted to talk business with him.

Morris is a roofing contractor. Lollar said he was truck driver for Morris, jail wardens said.

6. Solicitor Emmett Perry has stated the investigation will continue "full steam ahead" while the Grand Jury is in recess until Aug. 29. Perry said he would call that body back into session "instantaneously" as soon as evidence is available to present before it.

THE REQUEST that Carmichael investigate matters surrounding the selection of the Grand Jury was made Sunday in a letter by Marvin Warner, commander, General Gorgas Post No. 1.

The request asked Carmichael to determine why 10 or 60 persons drawn for Grand Jury duty were marked "not found" by the sheriff.

Why 24 veniremen were excused from Grand Jury duty before the date of the selection of the group?

What the excuses were of eight other veniremen excused on July 11, the date the Grand Jury was organized?

7-18-49

Why criminal records of certain persons called for jury service were not disclosed at the time the Grand Jury was organized?

Why the Ku Klux Klan membership of one member of the Grand Jury was not disclosed at that time?

What the qualifications or disqualifications were of the persons excused from Grand Jury service.

It was disclosed four days after the Grand Jury went into session that one member of the body was a former member of the Ku Klux Klan. Another was found to have a prison record which disqualified him.

THE DISQUALIFIED member has been excused permanently. The ex-Klansman has been excluded from consideration of any matters having to do wiht investigations of the Ku Klux Klan.

In backing up the stand of the local American Legion post, State Commander Ferrell said:

* * *

"CONGRATULATIONS TO the General Gorgas Post for its courageous, outspoken stand on the mob violence question.

"So long as I command the American Legion in Alabama our state law officials shall have the complete support of our department in putting down mob violence and lawlessness."

A copy of Ferrell's statement was sent to Bankhead Bates, state enforcement head, and to Solicitor Perry.

The second petition to have Morris declared in contempt of court for refusing to give Klan records to the Grand Jury is now before Judge Bailes. At the time it was filed by Solicitor Perry, Judge Bailes said he would not act upon it until after the Supreme Court had "given him a blueprint."

After the Supreme Court's action in upholding Morris' contempt citation, Judge Bailes said he would study the petition and decide what action to take.

Morris was put in jail 10 days ago on orders of Circuit Judge Robert J. Wheeler, who organized the Spring Grand Jury.

* * *

THE GRAND JURY which came under fire last week is expected to meet only one more time in regular session. It will function with 17 members on all matters except those having to do with the investigation of the Klan or hooded terrorism. On those matters the Grand Jury will deliberate with 16 members.

High K. K. K. Man Ruled In Contempt

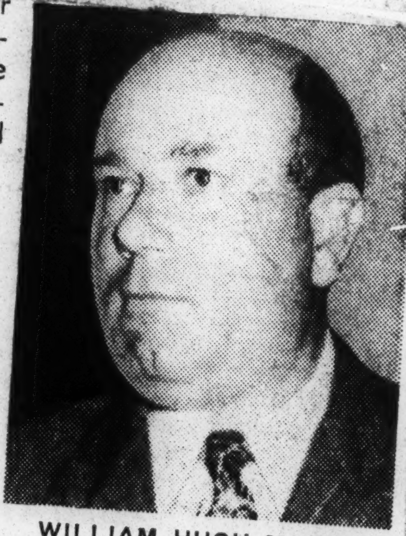
B.ham News

Bham, Ala.

Thu 7-7-49

Judge Declares He Will Stay Behind Bars Until Data Is Turned Over To Investigators

William Hugh Morris, high ranking officer of the Federated Ku Klux Klan, Inc., was cited for contempt of court today and sentenced to jail until he furnished Klan records to the Jefferson County Grand Jury.



WILLIAM HUGH MORRIS

Judge Robert J. Wheeler passed the sentence after Morris told the open court he would not furnish Klan records as requested by the Grand Jury. 7-7-49

"I cannot see that this will help the investigation, and I cannot in good conscience turn over the documents," Morris told Judge Wheeler.

Judge Wheeler had told Morris:

"You are assuming my duties."

He told Morris he had no other choice than to commit him to jail for "direct contempt" until he produces the requested records.

Morris told the court "Those records are of confidential nature. I do not feel the Klan is on trial. Part of the secrets of the Klan are its secret memberships.

"The Klan is a fraternal, benevolent organization, and we can furnish proof of that and for that reason, sir, I will do anything humanly possible to help enforce the law, because that is part of my obligation as a citizen."

More Witnesses Called

The Grand Jury reconvened immediately after William Hugh Morris was cited for contempt.

Within 10 minutes Klan Secretary M. V. T. Weaver and Klan Cyclops E. E. Campbell were called before the secret body.

Both had been instructed to produce whatever records of the Klan they had.

Weaver carried a small notebook into the Grand Jury room with him. Campbell was empty-handed.

Judge Wheeler told Morris . . . "This court does not want to visit any punishment on you. I shall be gratified if you will comply with this request. I wish you would do it."

The judge pointed out that the order of the court would relieve Morris of "any personal responsibility."

JUDGE WHEELER said "It won't mean you have been derelict in your duty if you turn over the documents under order of this court."

Morris admitted to the court that he had the records asked for by the Grand Jury.

He said he had been properly subpoenaed. 7-7-49

After Morris said he did not want to surrender the documents for various reasons the judge said:

"I think you should leave that to me."

The judge then said:

"I am compelled to judge you in direct contempt of court and to send you to county jail until you furnish the items asked for."

Morris then was turned over to Bailiff Proctor who led him to County Jail.

Morris was taken to the County Jail on the top floor of the Courthouse by Bailiff Proctor.

The Klan leader was docketed at the warden's office and then was taken into the Bureau of Identification where he was photographed and his fingerprints were taken.

This is a routine procedure for all prisoners placed in the County Jail.

Asked to make a statement, Morris said he had none at this time. The Grand Jury then went back into session.

The grand jurors came out of this afternoon's secret session and marched into Judge Wheeler's courtroom.

Solicitor Emmett Perry and State Atty. Gen. A. A. Carmichael, accompanied by Assisttant Solicitor Cecil Deason, walked into Judge Wheeler's courtroom and took a seat at a table near the judge's platform.

Morris, heavy-set and balding, sat at a table with the solicitors and listened intently as the attorney general made his presentation to the court.

Judge Wheeler entered the courtroom as jurors and others stood. 7-7-49

* * *

THE JUDGE CALLED THE COURT to order and the attorney general rose.

Carmichael told the court the Grand Jury is investigating activities of the Federated Ku Klux Klan, Inc.

He said the Grand Jury has the right to indict the Ku Klux Klan as a corporation or any of its members or officers for unlawful actions.

The attorney general told Judge Wheeler the Grand Jury had asked Morris for certain information about the Federated Ku Klux Klan.

Carmichael said Morris is not only a director of the Klan but also exercises supervisory powers over various Klaverns throughout Alabama.

Carmichael said that under the law the Grand Jury has the widest latitude and that the prosecuting officers also have the widest latitude in gathering information and facts considered pertinent to the investigation.

* * *

MORRIS TESTIFIED before the grand jurors yesterday and was called back into the jury room again at 2:25 p.m. this afternoon. He remained only a few minutes.

Yesterday he told newsmen in the courthouse corridor he had been told to bring Klan records for every klavern in Alabama before the grand jurors.

He said he thought he knew where the records were, but added he didn't think Klan records were "anyone's business."

Dr. E. P. Pruitt, president of the Federated Ku Klux Klan, Inc., also appeared before the jurors yesterday. He was told to produce all records and membership lists of his organizations.

He was empty-handed, however, when he arrived outside the Grand Jury room yesterday.

Top Klan Leaders Disagree On Unmasking Voluntarily

The Advertiser, Montgomery, Ala. Mon. 6-27-49

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., June 26.—(AP)—The top two Ku Klux Klan leaders in Alabama were in disagreement today on whether members will unmask voluntarily.

Members of the legislature said it didn't make any difference what they decided—that the white-robed men would be required to remove their hoods, anyway, by an anti-masking bill up for passage this week.

The Klan has been accused of being involved in a series of recent floggings, cross burnings and threats. It denied the charge.

Dr. E. P. Pruitt, chairman of the board of governors of the Federated Ku Klux Klan, Inc., said last night he had directed that klansmen remove their visors (hoods) for everything except invitation ceremonials and such. Mon. 6-27-49

Authority Questions

But William Hugh Morris, the Klan's director, said Pruitt "doesn't have authority to hand out that order."

"I seriously doubt," he added, "that such action will be taken" by the board of governors.

Morris said no meeting of the board was scheduled to consider the plan.

Questioned on Morris' statement, Pruitt replied: "I am the presiding officer of the Klan." He said he had no other comment.

State Senator Henry H. Mize, Tuscaloosa, author of the anti-masking measure, said the bill "is aimed at all organizations and people who use masks." He said any action by the Klan doesn't "alter the need for the law one iota."

Passage Predicates

Speaker William Beck of the House said the same thing. He predicted the House would complete passage of the bill Tuesday.

The Senate already has approved the bill, which provides for a fine of up to $1,000 and 12 months in jail for persons convicted of wearing masks. Children and persons joining in such celebrations as Mardi Gras are exempt.

Morris, the Klan director, said the organization will obey the law if it passes, "unless it's declared unconstitutional."

U. S. Atty. Gen. Tom Clark has ordered the FBI to make a full investigation of the wave of violence here.

Alabama Woman Relates Other Flog Victims

Daily World

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., —(INS) — Mrs. Elizabeth Studdard, of Lynn Park, told newsmen in Birmingham Tuesday of four new floggings in Jefferson county.

Mrs. Studdard said she and her daughter, Opal, 21, and two men she identified as Albert Sanders and Auxford Spradlin were whipped in April.

Atlanta, Ga.

She told of the new whippings while waiting to testify before a special Jefferson County Grand

Wed. 7-6-49

Jury.

Meanwhile, in adjacent Clay county, authorities considered calling a special session of its Grand Jury to investigate reports of beatings and threats by hooded mobs in that county.

Two methodist ministers brought these to light last week after a private inquiry. They have since been threatened with beatings themselves.

Circuit Judge W. W. Wallace indicated he would confer with Clay county Solicitor Arthur Gardegree at Ashland Tuesday to make a decision regarding grand jury action.

Getting Down To Cases

Advertiser
Montgomery, Ala.

Welcome news came out of Birmingham yesterday in the report that a special grand jury had returned 44 indictments against 14 persons charged with mob violence. It is more proof that Alabama has enough of hooded hoodlumism and is pressing to a showdown. A majority—28—of the indictments involved flogging cases, the rest other acts of mob violence.

Sun. 7-10-49

Final judgment on the effectiveness of Jefferson county's move to clean out hoodlumism will of course await the verdicts of trial juries. Too often in the South indictments have been returned in such cases as a sort of virtuous gesture, with juries failing to convict.

If the state can present evidence to warrant convictions it is to be hoped that the cases will be taken in stride and guilty gangsters put where they belong.

Ala. Agents Disperse KKK Meet

Constitution
Atlanta, Ga.

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—(UP) Special State agents moved in on Clay County's "whipping ground" floggings yesterday and reported they already have dispersed one Ku Klux Klan gathering.

But a new wave of floggings was reported from both Clay County and Jefferson County, which embraces Birmingham's metropolitan area. One of the beatings may have been the first violation of Alabama's new anti-masking law.

A special Grand Jury met in Birmingham charged by Circuit Judge Robert J. Wheeler to "get to the bottom of the alleged riotous, venomous and malicious acts of masked and robed mobsters."

Victims of the dozen previous Birmingham area outrages, which precipitated the passage of the anti-masking law, were going before the Jury. Above all, Wheeler said it was important for the victims to identify any of their abductors whom they recognized so that the jury will have the basis for indictments.

The Grand Jury witnesses included William Rochester, a crippled coal miner who reported he had been forced to watch the flogging of a fellow miner. He was brought from the hospital to appear.

Sat. 7-2-49

Another witness was Mrs. Hugh McDanal, 42-year-old grandmother who was threatened for allegedly "dancing in the nude."

An officer who helped with the investigations predicted that as many as 35 indictments may be returned. "The evidence is available for that many," he said.

State Public Safety Director Bankhead Bates personally directed three agents in a study of the situation in Clay County, 70 miles east of here, where night-riders reportedly maintained a "whipping ground" at which victims were beaten regularly.

State Officer V. J. Kitchen reported that he and a colleague got a tip that a Klan meeting was being held at the Olive Branch School in Clay County, near Ashland. They went to the spot and found a number of figures apparently in conclave.

The officers went to Ashland for reinforcements, Kitchen said, but when they returned the meeting had scattered. The windows of the school were covered with white cloth and the doors shut tight, he reported.

A ministers' group in Ashland reported that the County has been the scene of 25 to 30 floggings in recent weeks. Four victims left the County in fear of their lives.

To the report of outrages was added the story of John Henry McCullers, a Clay County Negro farmer and father of six. He said that a few weeks ago he was dragged from his home, blindfolded and beaten unconscious with hickory limbs.

7-2-49

New reports of terrorism in the Birmingham area came from:

Ellis Gill, 52, a coal miner at Lacy's Chapel who said he was beaten by hooded men on March 19 and became so frightened he moved to Mississippi.

Neighbors of Joseph Carley, another Lacy's Chapel miner. They said that after a robed mob burned a cross at his home and threatened him he also left town without revealing his destination.

Cliff Aldridge, who said he was threatened by hooded men but did not give details.

Marion County Sheriff Hugh Lord, who said he was investigating the reported beating of J. T. Franks, 31, of Boston, Ala., last Tuesday night.

44 True Bills Are Returned; KKK Silent

Advertiser
Montgomery, Ala.

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., July 9—(AP)—A grand jury today charged 14 persons with taking part in the recent wave of hooded hoodlumism in Jefferson (Birmingham) County.

The jury returned 44 indictments after a special session called to investigate night riding activities. It recommended that the inquiry be continued by a new jury to be organized Monday.

The names of those indicted will not be disclosed until they are arrested. Judge Robert Wheeler said he would sign warrants Monday.

Sun 7-10-49

This action climaxed a month of delving into acts by robed and hooded bands. These included floggings, cross burnings and threats of further violence.

Morris Stays In Jail

Ku Klux Klan officials denied their order had anything to do with the law violations. William Hugh Morris, director of the Federated Ku Klux Klans, Inc., was jailed Thursday for refusing to bring Klan records before the jury.

Morris was allowed $500 bond today, but declined to post it and remained in jail. His release was conditional upon his agreement to produce the records next week before another grand jury.

Hugh Locke, Morris' attorney, said he would take the contempt case to the Alabama Supreme Court next week.

28 Charge Floggings

Some of those indicted today were charged on more than one count. Twenty-eight of the 44 indictments returned by the jury involved flogging cases. Sixteen others were for acts relating to mob violence.

Ku Klux Klan leaders were on hand for the jury report. These included Dr. E. P. Pruitt, Birmingham, president of the Federated KKK; the Rev. Alvin Horn, Talladega, a Klan organizer, and others.

They had nothing to say to newsmen on the jury action.

Judge Wheeler praised the jury for its work, saying it will "make all citizens aware of the fact that we have tribunals to try persons accused of crimes and that is not within the province of any citizen to take the law into his own hands and punish any person."

Today's action brought the first criminal charge against any person in this state for recent acts of mob violence.

Most of the mob acts were first uncovered by newsmen. Besides those in Jeferson, mobs in Clay, Walker and Marion counties have flogged their victims.

'Looked Like Kluxers'

The state legislature adopted an anti-masking law on June 28, despite strenuous Klan opposition.

Mob violence in this county was confined to coal mining areas west of Birmingham. Most occurred on Friday nights. Victims identified their attackers as having been dressed in KKK robes and hoods. Victims were accused of immoral acts, which they denied. 7-10-49

The outbreak first drew wide attention the night of June 10 when hooded bands broke into the home of Mrs. Hugh McDanal, 42-year-old grandmother.

She said they struck her twice, seized a gun she was attempting to load, and forced her to watch a cross burning.

Victims Tell House Group Of Beatings

The Defender
Chicago, Ill.

By VENICE SPRAGGS
(Defender Washington Bureau)

WASHINGTON—The cold stark facts of hooded mob terror in Alabama were brought home dramatically to members of a House Judiciary subcommittee now considering anti-lynching and other civil rights measures proposed by President Truman.

Members of the subcommittee were visibly shocked as three Alabama newspapermen—one himself a victim of assault—recited gripping stories of the lawlessness of the sheeted night riders who have terrorized two Alabama counties since June 1 with a series of floggings, near lynchings and cross burnings.

Sat. 7-9-49

Although all of the flogging victims have been white, at least three instances of the hooded gang's activities involved Negroes, two of the reporters testified.

Clancy E. Lake, City Hall reporter for the Birmingham News, said State police and the governor of Alabama are "doing everything humanly possible" to stop the bed-sheeted gang, and stated he could "guarantee" that a "batch of indictments" would be returned by a Jefferson County grand jury within a matter of days. Lake said new evidence had been uncovered in adjoining Walker County, where he said, State investigations would move after finishing in Jefferson.

Smash The Mob

Lake praised four State officers who have been working "night and day without sleep" in Walker County. "They have but one thought in mind — to smash the mob—and that is what they're going to do," he insisted.

Lake, who personally investigated at least six incidents of the night-riding mob's activities, told the subcommittee he could not give more detailed information for fear of jeopardizing successful prosecution.

Paul Trawick, editor of the Union News, a Jasper, Aabama weekly, read into the Committee's record script of his radio broadcasts which made smashing attacks on the hooded gang's night-riding activities.

He appealed to the subcommittee to give the people of Alabama opportunity to solve the problem of sheeted mob rule without federal restraint.

"State officials can handle it if given half a chance and the cooperation they deserve," Trawick said.

"Proud of Klan"

Clarke Stallworth Jr., a Birmingham Post reporter, quoted a Mrs. Fred Hoaglund, a taxi driver in Dora, Ala., as stating: "We're proud of the Klan. It is the only law we have in Walker County." Both Dora and Jasper are located in Walker County.

Mrs. Hoaglund dismissed a cross-burning incident in front of her home as the work of a competitor in the taxi business.

150 Gun-Totin' Men

Both Lake and Stallworth testified that the bands of hooded riders had contained at times up to 150 gun-toting men. They both also stated that in several incidents they had investigated, the victims were reluctant to talk.

The floggings generally follow the same pattern. All took place near midnight. They started with a knock at the door—followed by the admitted or forced entrance of a small gang of hooded men carrying guns. The victims were led to waiting cars and then carried to a remote spot where the floggings were administered.

Lake said the flogging of Mrs. Burton and her daughter Saly, and the threatened hanging of Troy Morrison and the older daughter Billy Fay, were accompanied by three prayers—one at the beginning, another mid-way, and a closing prayer.

Attack Both Races

Representative William T. Byrne (D., N. Y.), chairman of the subcommittee, asked Stallworth whether the victims recognized any of the night-riders. He stated Billy Fay Burton said she believed she recognized the voice of one and gave his name.

Representative Sam Hobb (D.,

Jury Seeking Klan Names

KKK Director To Refuse To Give Up Records For Probers

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., July 6—(AP)—A Jefferson County official today said the grand jury in special session here is seeking to learn the names of "every high Klan official" in Alabama.

The jury is investigating a recent wave of floggings, threats and cross burnings by white-sheeted mobs, in this area.

Circuit Solicitor Emmett Perry, who is helping in the grand jury's work, said several high Klan officials testified today.

Among these was Dr. S. P. Pruitt, who identified himself to newsmen as chairman of the board of governors of the Federated Ku Klux Klans, Inc. Pruitt was in closed session with the jurors nearly all morning.

Officials Appear

Others who appeared before the jury were Dr. John R. Jones, Talladega, and E. E. Campbell, Birmingham. Jones was identified as secretary of the Klan, and Campbell was listed as an official of the Robert E. Lee Klan, Birmingham.

William Hugh Morris, Birmingham, a Klan director, and R. M. Arnott, identified as treasurer of the organization, were seen outside the solicitor's office during the afternoon.

Morris told newsmen he had been told to bring Klan records for every klavern in Alabama before the grand jury.

He said he didn't think Klan records were "anyone's business. I'm not planning to produce the records," he added.

Two Sentenced Under Antimask Law In Alabama

OZARK, Ala. — (INS) — Two Negroes — the first persons to be convicted under Alabama's anti-masking law — were sentenced in Ozark Friday.

Both youths were members of a group of Negroes who organized a Ku Klux Klan of their own to frighten Negro girls for reportedly having illicit relations with white men.

Police however, said the girls denied the accusation. The pair were listed as Tommie Johnson, 19, sentenced to six months, and Robert Miller, 21, who received 60 days on the city streets.

A third Negro youth was turned over to Juvenile Authorities and two others have not been arrested.

Klansmen of Six States Join Forces in Alabama

By LEROY SIMS

MONTGOMERY, Ala.—(AP)—Ku Klux Klansmen from six States joined forces yesterday in this first Capital of the Confederacy.

They invited all other Klan groups to come in for one nation-wide organization of the robed order.

Lycurgus Spinks, white-maned Klan orator from Thomasville, Ala., was chosen Imperial Emperor, the chief executive office. National headquarters will be in Montgomery.

The united group inaugurated Spinks in a Montgomery hotel, only a few blocks from the Capitol building in which the Alabama Legislature recently passed an anti-mask law.

Spinks and the 40 to 50 KKK officials at the meeting adopted a Klan rule against the wearing of masks in public. Only Spinks was unmasked at the hotel however.

Spinks said the new Knights of the Ku Klux Klans of America starts with 265,000 members. He said they are principally in Alabama, Mississippi, Tennessee, Arkansas, Missouri and Louisiana.

Klan groups joining were listed as the Independent Klans, Seashore Klans, Ozark Klans, Star Klans, River Valley Klans and Allied Klans.

There was no mention here of the attacks on the robed order by Alabama officials in recent weeks.

Not included in the groups joining yesterday was the Federated Ku Klux Klans, Inc., the principal target of the Alabama officials.

Spinks said he had asked William Hugh Morris, head of the Federated Klan at Birmingham, to come in but he was not represented yesterday. Morris now is in jail at Birmingham for refusing Klan membership lists to a county grand jury.

Also missing from the roster of Klan groups joining were the KKK organizations in Georgia, the national headquarters of the order which flourished in the 1920s.

The 64-year-old Spinks said the Klan would start an immediate organizing campaign "in all the 48 states."

The new Klan chief said Montgomery's historic background was one reason for its selection as national headquarters. He referred specifically to the fact that Jefferson Davis was inaugurated as President of the Confederacy here.

Spinks assailed "bureaucracy in government" in accepting the Klan leadership.

The Klan chief said the robed order would sponsor "wholesome legislation."

Spinks formerly lived near Meridian, Miss., and was an unsuccessful candidate for Governor of Mississippi in 1946.

Klansman Fails To Win Freedom

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., Sept. 12—(AP)—Jailed Klan Leader William Hugh Morris' newest bid for freedom was thrown out of Circuit Court today.

Morris has served 57 days of an indefinite sentence under a contempt citation rising from his refusal to produce secret records of the white-robed order for a grand jury. The jury has indicted 18 men on flogging and related charges.

Alabama Atty. Gen. Albert A. Carmichael moved at the start of today's hearing for dismissal of the petition.

Ernest Jones, a defense lawyer, argued that the appeal was new and that he would produce evidence to show Morris had cleared himself of the contempt citation.

The appeal contended that Morris is no longer able to produce the records because they were stolen from his home while he was in jail.

Klan Slates Parade ---Without Hoods

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — (AP) — A Ku Klux Klan spokesman said yesterday members of the robed order would parade in near-by Pell City tomorrow night.

Lycurgus Spinks, Thomasville, Ala., said hundreds would march afoot in the street parade. They would wear their white robes, but would march with lifted visors in observance of Alabama's anti-masking law, he added.

Spinks is scheduled to address a mass meeting after the parade. He said he believed the talk would be made in front of the courthouse.

KLAN HEAD WINS TIME TO PRODUCE RECORDS

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., July 29 (AP)—William Hugh Morris, state Ku Klux Klan head, today was given additional time to comply with a court order that he bring secret Klan membership rolls before a grand jury.

Judge George Lewis Bailes told Mr. Morris today he could have until 9:30 A. M. Monday to clear himself of a contempt charge first brought last July 7 during a grand jury investigation of floggings hereabouts.

Mr. Morris, who served sixteen days in jail for refusing to produce the records, now is under a conditional bond which requires him to bring the membership list. He told reporters after today's decision that he would "do anything I can" to have the records by Monday. He told the grand jury yesterday it was "physically impossible" to bring the records, since they were stolen from his home July 20 when he still was in jail.

He had told reporters, while in jail, that he would "let the jail rot down" before he would reveal KKK secrets. He changed his mind after the Alabama Supreme Court affirmed his contempt conviction.

Eighteen persons have been indicted by grand juries here in their investigation of the wave of masked mob violence in May and June of this year.

From Where I Stand

Morris Isn't Same Fellow Who Went To Jail With Smile

BY VULCAN

WILLIAM HUGH MORRIS is weary of jail. . . . The Klan leader at first seemed to enjoy his role, got flowers and scores of letters from fellow Klansmen, felt that it would be only a matter of a few days. . . . Now he gets no flowers, his mail is sparse, his Klan organization breaking into warring segments. . . . He would like to get out.

VULCAN

Klan Leader Morris is an outdoor man. . . . Prison pallor fits oddly on his face, which normally is apple-colored by constant hours in the sun and wind.

Morris undoubtedly has been disturbed by the sudden shift of Lycurgus Spinks. . . . Morris picked up Spinks, brought him into the Alabama Klan. . . . Then Spinks took advantage of Morris' being in jail and organized his own independent Klan. . . . But Morris does not speak with bitterness about Spinks or other Klan leaders who left him holding the bag.

Morris gets along fine with his jailers and fellow prisoners. . . . He is strong-minded and has stubbornly held to the position that he is honor-bound not to reveal the Klan list. . . . But he has won a degree of respect from all officials who have dealt with his case, including the attorney general, the solicitor and three circuit judges.

Friends say Atty. Hugh Locke was reluctant to take the Morris contempt case, but did so because he felt he was duty-bound to accept it.

Judge Locke probably sighed with relief when Morris shifted to Atty. Roderick Beddow. . . . Morris has not been what court observers would call an "ideal client . . ." He has made up his own mind on several occasions, without regard to legal advice.

Klan Leader Hearing Opens New Round

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., July 31—(AP)—Another round comes up tomorrow in Klan Leader William Hugh Morris' battle for freedom from a contempt of court citation.

Circuit Judge George Lewis Bailes gave Morris until tomorrow morning to produce secret KKK membership rolls. The court recessed a hearing Friday to give the Klan chief additional time to acquire the records.

Morris previously spent 16 days in jail on a contempt citation for refusing to deliver the records to the grand jury, which is investigating mob violence in this area.

The Klan chief claims he is

now willing to give records to the jury but is unable to do so because they were stolen from his home.

He is free on a bond signed July 23 that requires him to produce the records. Morris says he will "do anything I can" to find the documents.

The hearing on his contempt citation resumes at 9:30 a.m. tomorrow.

Eighteen men have been indicted by the grand jury that delved into floggings, threats and cross burnings in May and June of this year. All have been released on bond.

The grand jury is in recess until Tuesday.

Klan Leader Asks Court to Free Him

(The Associated Press)

Birmingham, Ala., Sept. 6—Alabama klan leader William Hugh Morris Tuesday asked the circuit court to let him out of jail. He was committed almost two months ago for refusing to give a grand jury secret records of the white-robed order.

Morris' attorney, Roderick Beddow, Tuesday filed a motion to dissolve the contempt of court citation under which he is held. The petition said the klan leader is not able to furnish the records.

Circuit Judge Robert J. Wheeler said he would hear arguments at 2 p. m. next Tuesday.

Quit or Be Fired, Klansman Is Told

(The Associated Press)

Birmingham, Ala., Sept. 27—Robert E. Chambliss, Birmingham city garage repairman under indictment on a charge of flogging while masked, was ordered Monday to resign his job or be fired.

Mayor Cooper Green gave the order to Chambliss at a hearing. The hearing grew out of a series of incidents in which Green said Chambliss' conduct had "reflected on the city government."

Latest incident in the series occurred Friday night at a Ku Klux Klan rally at nearby Warrior. George Cook, a Birmingham newspaper reporter, charged that Chambliss smashed the flash gun of his camera after Cook had snapped a picture.

Chambliss told Mayor Green at the hearing that he resented the newspapers taking his picture. "They've been using me to make front page news," he said. "I didn't think they had a right to take my picture."

Chambliss was indicted in July by a Jefferson county grand jury that investigated a wave of night whippings by masked mobsters.

Morris Denies Klan Breakup

Federated Group Holds 30,000 Members, Says Leader

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., Sept. 25—(AP)—Alabama Klan Boss William Hugh Morris sharply denied today that his federated Ku Klux Klans, Inc., claiming a membership of 30,000, is breaking up.

The portly Morris said he had sent a telegram to Samuel Roper of Atlanta, leader of the Associated Klans of America, that read:

"Representatives of 65 Klans, belonging to the federated Ku Klux Klans, Inc., with a bona-fide membership of 30,000, met last night and voted full confidence in my leadership and decided unanimously to remain in the federated Ku Klux Klans, Inc."

Morris said the wire was in answer to a statement from Roper and Lycurgus Spinks, Montgomery, Ala., Klan chief, that the Federated Klans, Inc., have split "wide open" in the past week and that half of the chapters have joined Roper's new group.

Merger Announced

Roper and Spinks announced in Knoxville last night the merger of the South's two largest Klan groups. They invited all other KKK organizations in the nation to join them.

When Spinks' Klan organization was formed, he said, it numbered 265,000 members in many states. Its Montgomery headquarters had been closed and the entire group has joined with the organization now headed by Roper.

However, Morris said today he can prove that Spinks "didn't have more than two members" when he joined with Roper and that apparently Spinks was "carrying Brother Roper on a snipe hunt."

Nearly Non-Existent

Morris charged that Spinks' outfit had practically "ceased to exist" before the merger.

The balding, 44-year-old Morris, a roofing contractor, also denied an announcement by the Rev. Alvin Horn of Talladega that four klaverns seceded last Thursday.

"A few members from the klaverns at Pell City, Talladega and Odenville may have pulled out," Morris said. "But I believe they're just out temporarily—waiting to see what happens."

Morris made his first public appearance Friday night since he was released last Tuesday after spending 67 days in jail under a contempt of court citation.

REPORTER SAYS KLAN SMASHED HIS CAMERA

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., Sept. 24 (UP)—A Birmingham Post reporter charged today that a highway patrolman and a policeman "looked the other way" while part of his camera was being smashed at a Ku Klux Klan rally.

The incident occurred at an open air Klan meeting at suburban Warrior last night. Some 1,000 persons gathered to hear William Hugh Morris make his first speech since he was released from a sixty-seven-day sentence in jail.

The reporter, George Cook, said he was within "arm's length" of two uniformed officers when Robert Chambliss tried to grab the camera. The flash gun mechanism came loose and that part was smashed on the highway, Mr. Cook said.

Chambliss, a Birmingham city employe, is under indictment on charges of flogging while masked. He also was suspended by the city for ten days in connection with a threat against a Negro in the dynamiting of Negro homes here recently.

The reporter said about six robed Klansmen, led by Chambliss, who was unrobed, descended upon him and he slipped across the highway to be near the highway patrolmen and the Warrior policeman for protection.

"I didn't get any, however," Mr. Cook said. "Chambliss followed and grabbed my camera anyway."

The 'Wolf! Wolf!' Cry

THERE are unquestionably Ku Klux Klansmen in this country and there is no doubt that they have committed actrocities against colored and white persons which cannot be too severely condemned.

But the size and influence of the Ku Klux groups have been dangerously and hysterically exaggerated, and the Klan has received so much publicity in the public prints that many people are being led to believe that it is a danger comparable to the Nazi party in Germany or the Communist party in the United States.

In view of the distortions concerning the size and activities of the Klan, it is a distinct public service to have, from Alexander F. Miller, a Northern white man, who, for eight years has been Southern director of the Anti-Defamation League, educational arm of B'nai B'rith, an on-the-spot report on the hooded order.

Presumably a member of the Jewish faith, it is not to be supposed that Mr. Miller would be inclined to minimize the activities and size of the K.K.K.

Mr. Miller says the North is getting a distorted and erroneous picture of the Klan and the South's attitude toward it, and he blames the Communists and certain "yellow" daily newspapers for spreading the myth of the Ku Klux "menace."

This Jewish official declares that the Klan outside Georgia amounts to only a few sporadic outbreaks with no semblance of importance as an organized terror movement.

Says he, "The South today is not yet ready to tackle the problem of civil rights for all. But the South of today knows the Klan way does not supply the answer."

Instead of becoming a strong movement, he reports, the Klan has become "fragmentized" so that now there are six separate Klans, all of them insignificant except Georgia's.

The Alabama Klan recently could not muster fifty members to protest the jailing of its chief, after promising a turnout of thousands; the Florida Klan is small and confined to Jacksonville and Tallahassee.

On the other side of the picture, Alabama recently passed an anti-mask law, and there are now twenty-one Southern cities which outlaw mask-wearing and cross-burning.

Mr. Miller says the only real Klan violence this year has been confined to Tallahassee, Chattanooga and Jefferson County, Ala., while the church organizations and newspapers of the South have, without exception, joined the anti-Klan drive.

Over 4,500 Baptist churches in the South are using Anti-Defamation League information to fight Ku Kluxism.

Some daily newspapers are flaunting the Klan scare in the hope of attracting more readers while the motives of the Communist party and its satellite "front" groups and fellow-travelers are well understood by intelligent people not inclined to hysteria.

As long as there is one Klan organization in existence it is to be exposed, condemned and destroyed, but there is no point in making a mountain out of what is definitely a molehill and trying to instill the same terror which is otherwise decried.

It is bad policy to build up our enemies by false propaganda.

By so doing we are prone to ignore the rapidly growing forces of tolerance and liberalism in the United States, South as well as North.

As one swallow does not make a summer, so one cross-burning, nightshirt parade or abusive letter does not constitute a "wave of terror."

Dragon Green Will 'Banish' Bullies From Klan, He Says

Grand Dragon Samuel Green said yesterday he would banish from his Klan organization any members who ever threatened anybody.

Dr. Green filed a demurrer to a suit brought last week by two young attorneys in behalf of Hugh Gilliland, a war veteran arrested on a lunacy warrant. Gilliland asked an injunction against Dr. Green, claiming Green was responsible for Ku Klux Klan threats against both him and the lawyers.

Dr. Green called the charges against him "vague hallucinations of a distorted mind evidently seeking newspaper publicity."

Since filing the original plea, the lawyers, Hal A. Irwin, 21, and Samuel Johnson, 25, claimed the Klan fired pistol shots into Johnson's home and burned a cross in the yard.

Dr. Green asked Fulton Superior Court to throw out the Gilliland suit on the basis of several errors. He denied doing business as the "Ku Klux Klan" and denied the existence of such an organization. He said there is a fraternal organization known as the Association of Georgia Klans, which he heads.

The Grand Dragon said he knows "nothing whatsoever" of any threat made against Gilliland by "night riders," but "is sure that no such threat was made" by his organization or any member of it.

Such a threat, said Green, would be in direct violation of the oath required of members.

He quoted the oath in his petition.

"I here and now pledge my life, property, my vote, and my sacred honor to uphold (the) Constitution and constitutional laws and will protect, defend, and enforce same unto death," the oath reads.

"I swear that I will most zealously and valiantly shield and preserve by any and all justifiable means and methods the sacred constitutional rights and privileges of free public schools, free speech, free press, separation of church from state, liberty, white supremacy, just laws, and the pursuit of happiness," it continues.

Three Men On Trial, Accused Of Flogging 18-Year-Old Farm Boy

BY THOMAS F. HILL
News Staff Writer

FAYETTE, Ala., Aug. 1—Three Berry men went on trial here today on charges of having participated in the flogging of an 18-year-old farm boy the night of July 13.

The victim, Aubrey Pinion, testified today he was picked up by the three men and taken to a lonely spot and beaten.

The defendants, who pleaded not guilty, are Leon Kimbrell, 34, Curt Espey, 40, a taxi driver, and Vick Hudson, 33.

Pinion was the only witness put on the stand by the state before court adjourned for lunch.

* * *

THE HEARING is being held before Probate Judge J. C. McGough. Representing the state are W. W. Monroe, Fayette County solicitor, and Cecil Strawbridge, circuit solicitor.

Defense attorney is C. M. Holder.

Under cross examination, the defense attempted to show that Pinion had been involved in a fight with another man prior to the alleged flogging.

Pinion told the court he was picked up in Berry and taken to a lonely spot where he was beaten with switch. He testified that after this beating he was forced to get back into the car and was driven to another lonely spot. He said that one of the men hit him in the nose with his fist. Pinion added that when the men were cutting another tree limb, he broke away and fled.

Morris Still In Jail; Jury Called Back

Ruled against on every front, an embattled Ku Klux Klan has announced that it intends to fight back politically in Alabama.

The box score for the week weighed heavily against the hooded order which registered only one "partial victory."

The week ended with the Ku Klux Klan itself under investigation by the Jefferson County Grand Jury.

Its leader, William Hugh Morris, remained in County Jail after failing to win his freedom in a plea before Circuit Court Judge Alta L. King Saturday.

Four indictments were brought against a man accused of riding with a flogging mob. R. C. Lyons, part-time preacher and miner, was indicted Friday on three counts of flogging while masked and one of first degree burglary.

Week Of Action

OTHER DEVELOPMENTS of the past week in the probe of hooded violence included:

1. Arrest of Lyons Tuesday after a flogging victim, Jack Alexander, had identified Lyons as a member of a masked mob which flogged him. He said the group represented themselves as members of the Ku Klux Klan.

2. **The Grand Jury, which recessed a week ago, was called back into session to consider more evidence of mob violence.**

3. State Atty. Gen. Albert Carmichael asked a legislative committee to bring action to revoke the charter of the Federated Ku Klux Klan in Alabama. Here the Klan won a partial victory when the committee refused to initiate such action.

4. Carmichael indicated that he might bring other action to dissolve the Klan.

5. Mrs. Morris said the home of the Klan Leader Morris was burglarized.

Morris visited his home Saturday under guard and said Klan records had been stolen.

* * *

Legion Speaks Out

6. CIRCUIT JUDGE George Lewis Bailes and Circuit Solicitor Emmett Perry issued statements saying they were members of the Ku Klux Klan more than 25 years ago but have had no such connection since.

7. Open Ku Klux Klan meeting in the City Hall at Tarrant City.

8. Morris' bid for freedom by a petition saying the Klan records demanded of him had been stolen.

9. **American Legion posts in the county hitting at "bungling" law enforcement.**

10. Call by William Mitch, Sr., local head of the United Mine Workers of America, for his members to "get out of the Klan or out of the union."

11. Petition by 302 citizens of the Western section of Jefferson County protesting handling of the indictments of several men from that section.

* * *

18th Arrest Made

BEFORE RECESSING after a one-day session Friday, the Grand Jury brought four indictments against Lyons and said it was investigating a case of the State of Alabama against the Federated Ku Klux Klan, Inc.

The Grand Jury was called back into the abbreviated session just a week after it had been recessed until Aug. 29.

The indictments against Lyons brought to 49 the number of true bills growing out of the flogging probe. He was the 18th man arrested as results of the investigation.

While developments came thick and fast in the fight to dissolve the K. K. K., its leader, William Hugh Morris sat in County Jail and stated that he would never produce Klan records sought by the Grand Jury.

The Klan meeting attended by 250 persons in Tarrant City featured a "professional Klansman," Dr. Lycurgus Spinks.

Spinks, who said he speaks for any group which employs him, boasted of his 40 years of Klan membership and said he intends to speak for the Klan throughout Alabama.

* * *

Sounds Klan Call

THE ONE-TIME candidate for governor of Mississippi said there are nearly 7,000 Klansmen in Jefferson County; 30,000 in Alabama and 1,000,000 in the United States. He threatened to "retire certain politicians in Montgomery to their country estates."

Spinks issued a call for more Klan membership and asserted "we'll fight our battle with ballots."

The silver-haired orator said he "retired" as a lecturer last year and returned to his home in Thomasville, Ala. He was candidate for governor in Mississippi in 1947.

Spinks said he has lectured on "almost every subject under the sun" throughout the U. S. and in foreign countries. He said he has spoken before all kinds of groups except "any group tinged with communism."

During his speech Dr. Spinks referred to Gov. Fielding Wright, of Mississippi, as "my very good friend."

Reached in Rolling Fork, Miss., by The News, Gov. Wright Saturday disclaimed any friendship with Spinks and said Spinks had "been repudiated" as a representative of States' Righters.

* * *

'A Friend Of Mine?'

"SPINKS SUED me for $50,000 because I repudiated him as a representative of the States' Righters," Gov. Wright said.

"I can't imagine Lycurgus Spinks sincerely professing friendship for me," Gov. Wright added.

The Mississippi governor said that the States' Rights Party, of which he was the vice presidential candidate last year, has no connection with the Ku Klux Klan.

Spinks opposed Gov. Wright in 1947.

* * *

Next For Morris?

THE PETITION by 302 citizens of Palos, West Jefferson, Flat Creek, Quinton, Labuco, Wegra and Praco, charged that The News has "made an unusual effort to prejudice the minds of citizens in the county against seven of our leading citizens here in the western part of the county."

The seven men mentioned are all under indictment by the Spring Grand Jury which investigated masked floggings. They are Coleman (Brownie) Lollar, Henry Nelson, Moody Nations, Richard Lollar, Roy Landrum, Byrd Caradine and Albert Swindle.

Meanwhile, the next move to free Morris from County Jail has not been announced. Hugh Locke, attorney for Morris, said Saturday he has not decided what his next action will be.

Locke said his "breath was completely taken away" by Judge King's ruling that Morris could not be freed by his court on a motion to modify the decree in which Morris was adjudged in contempt of court.

Judge King said such a motion "might well have been brought before the Alabama Supreme Court."

When the Supreme Court took jurisdiction of the case and upheld the contempt citation by Circuit Judge Robert J. Wheeler the jurisdiction was taken out of the hands of the local court, Judge King said.

Ala. Minister Held; Lashed Man's Story

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—(AP)—A minister, accused of being the man who prayed for the flogging victim of a hooded mob just before the lash was applied, was arrested last night.

He was booked at county jail as the Rev. R. C. Lyons of Graysville, Ala. A warrant charging him with burglary was sworn out by Jack Alexander of West Jefferson who was whipped the night of May 20.

Alexander said a man "knelt at my head and prayed that God would teach me what was right, as I was lying stripped just before they started hitting me."

Lyons told newsmen he is a minister of the Assembly of God Church. He denied membership in the Ku Klux Klan.

Alexander said he had recognized Lyons because "he had no mask on the night they came to my house." The whipping victim added his mother was told "we're the Ku Klux Klan" by the men who entered their home.

The development came as the Grand Jury charged with investigating hooded hoodums in this area was in recess. The jury is subject to instant recall.

Meanwhile, Judge George Lewis Bailes yesterday declined to consider a second contempt citation against a Klan leader now in jail here. It was Judge Bailes who charged the jury to look into mob activities.

Judge Bailes, who announced Monday he had been a Klansman in 1924 and 1925 but not since those years, ruled on a State petition against William Hugh Morris, director of the Federated Ku Klux Klans, Inc.

Morris was jailed for contempt July 7 when he refused to produce Klan records at the demand of a previous Grand Jury. Judge Robert J. Wheeler held him in direct contempt and ordered him to remain in jail until he produced the records.

Morris repeated that refusal before the present Grand Jury last week.

Judge Bailes held yesterday that Morris already is in jail for his refusal and that there is no point in hearing the same charge again.

The previous Grand Jury returned 44 indictments against 17 men in its investigation of mob

floggings, threats and cross burnings.

All 17 have been arrested and released on bond. Trials have not been set but probably will come up this Fall.

Klansman Pledges War On Politicians

Spews Defiance At Efforts To Dissolve K. K. K.

News
Birmingham News
Sat. 7-23-49

A mane-shaking orator for the Ku Klux Klan placed the robed order squarely into politics in a speech last night before a pro-Klan meeting in the Tarrant City Hall.

Dr. Lycurgus Spinks, who bragged that he had been a Klansman for 40 years, hurled defiance at efforts to dissolve the K. K. K.

THE ONE-TIME CANDIDATE for governor of Mississippi attacked newspapers and promised to "retire certain politicians in Montgomery to their country estates."

Spinks, who says he is a Baptist preacher, lists his home as Thomsville, Ala. He said his family has resided in the area since 1912.

With the boast that there are "nearly 7,000 Klansmen in Jefferson County, 30,000 in the state and 1,000,000 in the nation," Spinks said he was going to speak all over Alabama on behalf of the Klan.

He called for "red blooded, white, 100 per cent Americans" to join the Klan. "Begin knocking on the outer door of the first den of the nearest Klavern," he advised.

Spinks said "it is about as much use for the attorney general of this state to try to dissolve the Klan as it would be for him to try to dissolve an alligator on the Rock of Gibraltar."

The speaker made a direct attack on Atty. Gen. A. A. Carmichael and upon the court which held William Hugh Morris, Klan director, in contempt of court.

Spinks said he did not know the judge (Circuit Judge Robert J. Wheeler) "but I feel sorry for him just the same."

HE SAID that after committing Morris to jail for "failing to violate his oath" that the judge "went home and pretended to be sick."

The speaker's advertised promise to "tell the truth about the Ku Klux Klan and hooded floggings," consisted of a single statement out of the more than two and one-half hour speech.

He said it is "wrong for anybody to disguise themselves in any way and go out and commit a crime.

"I'm willing to help bring such characters to justice," he declared. "If he's a Klansman and is guilty, then he knows what he's going to get from the Klan. He'll get . . . well, he knows."

He continued to say that such a person "will be banished from the Klan—never talk to a Klansman, never eat with a Klansman, buy from a Klansman or sell to a Klansman—I'm telling you it's awful."

Spinks attacked "certain public officials who have said they were once members of the Klan but are not any more."

He said that these men could never say that they were "Klansmen."

He praised Supreme Court Justice Hugo Black for "never having denied or apologized" for his Klan affiliation.

Spinks said that repeated efforts have been made to dissolve the Klan. "We've had the big boys after us," he said.

"Carmichael's taking out after the Klan is the biggest joke in Alabama . . ." he continued.

* * *

HE SPOKE OF MORRIS in County Jail for failing to furnish the Grand Jury with Klan records.

"Why, if they had them, brother," he said. "They wouldn't know what to do with them. I can take you to one klavern with more than 1,000 members and not a name on the rolls."

He said that the organization's rolls are kept by code numbers.

Spinks said the Klan is not anti-Negro. "The Knight of the Ku Klux Klan is the best friend the Negro has," he added.

The speaker broadened his attack to hit at the "green-eyed monster of communism," which he said the Klan is actively fighting. He also took a swing at "a labor leader who has told Klansmen to get out of the union."

Spinks said the Klan has made it possible for the unions to become strong as they have today. He added that "the Ku Klux Klan established the court here and every court in the South."

A whistling, stamping audience greeted Spinks' every blast at the "lying press" and at state and county officials who are fighting the Klan. From time to time Spinks addressed the audience as "Klansmen."

Mrs. William Hugh Morris read a letter from her husband in County Jail.

* * *

MORRIS' LETTER sent greetings to "fellow Klansmen" and said that he had no desire to become a martyr. It added that the writer would "never violate his obligations."

The auditorium, estimated to hold 250 persons, was full with a few persons standing along the wall in the back.

Spinks was introduced by E. E. Campbell, head of the Robert E. Lee Klan in Birmingham.

No Such Thing As Klan, Says Grand Dragon

ATLANTA, July 23—(AP)—Grand Dragon Samuel Green says there is no such thing as a "Ku Klux Klan" so far as he is concerned.

What he heads, the Atlanta physician explained Friday, is a "fraternal organization knows as the Association of Georgia Klans."

Dr. Green asked the Fulton County Superior Court to throw out a

Alabama's Masked Mobsters In Spotlight As Special Jury Called To Meet Friday

The Advertiser Montgomery Ala.
7-21-49

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., July 20—Masked mobsters were in Alabama's judicial spotlight again today as two new floggings were reported and the Ku Klux Klan was blamed for four others.

Judge Alta L. King called a special session of the grand jury for Friday to consider further evidence of beatings, cross burnings and intimidation.

(A previous grand jury returned indictments against 17 men, all now free on bond.)

White Man Flogged

In Coosa County, near Birmingham, the flogging of another white man and a Negro was revealed today.

S. G. Bailey, 25, said the Klan was not responsible — that he should know, he is a member of the hooded order himself.

He said he and the Negro were taken from Goodwater, Ala., into another county and whipped by a band of unmasked and unrobed men last night. No reason was given, he added.

Meanwhile, Attorney General Albert Carmichael today asked for passage of a local bill revoking the charter of the Federated Ku Klux Klan, Inc.

An assistant attorney general, Taylor Hardin, charged:

"There has been positive identification to connect the Federated Ku Klux Klan with four flogging cases. There has been definite identification of regalia and personnel of the Klan in these lashings."

However, the Jefferson delegation declined the request for the bill.

Will File Suit

Carmichael then said he would file a suit in Birmingham to revoke the Klan charter.

Klan leaders have flatly denied responsibility for the wave of terrorism in recent weeks around Birmingham.

The Alabama Klan had trouble within its own ranks today.

The question arose whether a 72-year-old Birmingham physician, Dr. E. P. Pruitt, has resigned as state head of the white-robed order.

William Hugh Morris, Klan director, announced from his cell at county jail that Pruitt had resigned.

(Morris was imprisoned for contempt of court when he refused to produce Klan records for a grand jury.)

But Pruitt, who has had a difference of opinion with Morris before over their relative powers, said he "has not quite resigned yet."

7-21-49

Yesterday, The Rev. R. C. Lyons was arrested in Birmingham in connection with a mob whipping. He was accused of being the man who prayed over a flogging victim just before the lash was applied.

Lyons said he was a member of the Assembly of God Church but an official of the church denied this today.

T. H. Spence, superintendent of the church in Alabama, said Lyons "has no connection with the ministerial list of our church.

"We vigorously protest any mob violence and, furthermore, as an organization, we forbid any of our ministers to belong to any secret order."

"I Am A Klansman"

Editor, The Advertiser:

The title of this letter is "shoot square, everybody" and let's be identified. In reply to Bob Smith's letter of Aug. 3, I won't Mister him because he hasn't identified himself. Down in Barbour we don't mister everybody.

I won't say Smith stinks or is yellow, but I can tell the world what does have a bad odor. That is a man that won't take a stand for decency.

The Klan has taken a stand for segregation in the South. Fight it, Smith.

Smith speaks of the Klan's resemblance to the Russian secret police and their terrorist methods of using the whip. This won't hold water. Everybody knows there is no forced labor in America. Negro labor is what he is referring to. We hire them. We pay them when we can hire them.

I am going to give my full identity to Bob Smith, also the world.

I am a Klansman and have been ever since I knew the difference in colors.

I am a native born, white gentile protestant. Believe in State's Rights, white supremacy, and segregation. I have sworn three times to uphold the Constitution of the United States and all constitutional laws of the land, and our Southern way of living. Almighty God was my witness.

You can't make yellow out of square shooting. Bob Smith, identify yourself.

BARTO BUSH

Clayton, Ala.

Advertiser
Jun. 8-7-49
Montgomery Ala.

'Imperial Wizard' Speaks—

Spinks Says New Klan Needs Charter Like Pig Does Saddle

THE NEW UNION of Knights of Ku Klux Klan has no charter and feels it doesn't need one.

"We have about as much use for a charter as a hog has for a saddle," said Lycurgus Spinks, "imperial emperor" of the new union of Klansmen.

The self-styled 'red hot patriot' and emperor of the K. K. K. added:

But that doesn't seem to bother Spinks, a tall, broad-shouldered man with long white hair and a flair for oratory.

"Anytime we feel that the commissioners can be of use to us," he said, "we will gladly call on them. And if at any time we can be of service to them, we will be glad for them to call on us, and we will respond in the traditions of the sons and grandsons of the men who made Montgomery and Alabama famous long before we selected their city as the national headquarters of Knights of the Ku Klux Klan."

Mayor John L. Goodwyn had issued a statement saying that Montgomery has "long looked with complete disfavor on performances such as have been attributed to the Klan."

He said that so far as he knows, no invitation was issued to the Klan asking it to Montgomery.

FROM HIS JEFFERSON County Jail, William Hugh Morris, director of the Federated Ku Klux Klans, Incorporated, said the new organization is the result of two unfortunate situations.

The first "situation" is that Morris is serving an indefinite sentence for contempt of Circuit Court. The second was the death of Dr. Samuel Greene last week. Dr. Greene was head of the Georgia Association of Klans and was called the nation's No. 1 Klansman.

Morris denied that Spinks had invited him to join the new organization. The "imperial emperor" replied that "I have only this comment to make. Mr. Morris is a fine . . . young . . . fellow."

Morris' reaction to this was: "I wouldn't add prestige to his organization, or honor to him, by even answering this."

SPINKS has left open the doors of the new Klan group to the Federated Klans and to the Georgia association.

He said "membership . . . is open to all legitimate klaverns in America. Any klavern may pull away from one organization to join another."

He would not say whether this indicated membership raids on the Morris group.

Spinks took his feud with Morris a little further:

"Morris says he is a victim of the law. Well, he might have been put in jail by the law, and we'll have to get him out by law. But he's not a victim of the law."

"He's the victim of some of his associates."

Morris declared that none of his associates had put him in jail. "We are guaranteed our rights under the American constitution."

THE NEW KLAN GROUP was formed in Montgomery Tuesday when six branches of the hooded order merged and picked that city as its national headquarters.

Montgomery City Commission is casting an uneasy eye on the new organization.

Sheriff Chases Klansman Into Jail At Dothan

Green Issues Edict 36 Hours Later; K.K.K. Peppered By Shotguns

ATLANTA, Aug. 8—(AP)—The Ku Klux Klan's chief today issued an "imperial edict" against mask-wearing — about 36 hours after South Georgia townsfolk and robed night riders swapped shots.

The order from Dr. Samuel Green, imperial wizard, came after the one-armed mayor of Iron City, Ga., and some of his friends opened fire on a klan motorcade.

To wind up the shooting war, the mayor chased a klan official into Alabama at a 100-mile per-hour pace and had him jailed.

Dr. Green threatened members of the sheeted order with banishment if they appear "on any street, road or highway wearing a mask or visor."

He said the edict was necessary because certain "unlawful acts have brought unjust criticism against klansmen."

The Association of Georgia Klans, which Green heads, has been placed on the subversive list of the U. S. Department of Justice.

Green denied any connection between his organization and the Iron City incident.

The shooting spree started, said Mayor C. L. Drake of Iron City, when 12 or 15 carloads of robed Klansmen rolled into this little Southwest Georgia hamlet in the dark, early Sunday morning hours. One unidentified Klansman received a flesh wound. Drake reported none of his fighters was hurt.

The mayor, a Klan foe of long standing, declared "Some of the bullets whizzed by within five feet of me" while he hastily scribbled down the robed figures' auto tag numbers.

* * *

DRAKE SAID he didn't have a gun but that some of his friends did and they peppered the Klan convoy with shotgun and pistol fire. The night riders retaliated, he related.

Several hours elapsed between the shooting and the daredevil automobile chase to Dothan, Ala., 38-miles away. The mayor gave these details.

He had returned home when Sheriff C. L. Chandler telephoned that someone had sworn out an assault warrant against him. Drake started to Chandler's office and spotted the car which had led the Klan parade.

The mayor stomped the accelerator and the whirlwind chase was on. The Klan official, booked as Bill Hendrix, of Tallahassee, Fla., said his speed hit 100 m.p.h. during the race. Hendrix, who said he is an organizer for a new hooded order, the "Southern Ku Klux Klan," sped to police headquarters at Dothan and asked protection. The mayor burst in after him and had him jailed on a warrant charging assault with intent to murder which had been issued in Iron City. Hendrix's bond was set at $500.

Hendrix posted bond and was released from jail last night.

* * *

DRAKE ADDED that while in Dothan he looked in Hendrix's car and found Klan cloaks, receipt books, guns, one tommy-gun clip and carbon copies of Klan letters. He identified Hendrix as "acting agent of the Grand Dragon of Florida."

Bucking the Klan is nothing new to Mayor Drake. He recently announced he had thwarted a Klan kidnap attempt by opening fire with an automatic shotgun. He said the Klan wanted to kidnap him because he had opposed Gov. Herman Talmadge politically.

Iron City, on the mayor's insistence, has banned wearing of masks in public. Klan Leader Hendrix said none of his men wore masks. Mayor Drake, however, declared he thought at least some of them were masked—in violation of the town's recently enacted ordinance.

About 50 Klansmen participated in the Iron City parade. Hendrix said they had planned to visit several other Georgia cities.

Hendrix, an electrician, is well known in Florida's capital as a Klan representative. He opposed an unmasking bill which was defeated in the 1949 Florida Legislature.

Baptist Minister Says Need Great

NORTHPORT, Ala., Aug. 8—(AP)—A 64-year-old Baptist minister, Dr. Lycurgus Spinks, predicts the Ku Klux Klan will "grow and grow" and says need for it has "never been greater."

A silver-maned orator of the old school, Spinks addressed an open-air crowd of 1,000 here yesterday. He praised the Klan as defenders of American freedom and liberty and as an enemy of Communist and other isms that threaten the nation.

A CANDIDATE for governor of Mississippi in 1947, Spinks said "I am a Klansman and I have been one for 40 years but I am not a Klan official." He now lives at Thomasville, Ala.

The speaker denounced certain newspaper opposition to the Klan. He challenged a Birmingham newspaper columnist, John Temple Graves, and Alabama Atty. Gen. Albert Carmichael to a debate "anywhere, anytime" on the question that "the Klan should be dissolved."

Carmichael has outspokenly attacked the Klan and has been active in a Grand Jury investigation of mob violence in the state.

* * *

AT BIRMINGHAM, Alabama's top Klansman meanwhile went into his 23rd day in jail today. There is no indication he will regain his freedom soon.

He was returned to the county jail last Tuesday for failing to produce records of the white-robed order which a Grand Jury wants to inspect. Previously he had spent 16 days there on the same charge.

The Grand Jury wants the secret membership rolls in its investigation of hooded, robed terrorism here. Eighteen men have been indicted in the inquiry to date.

Solicitor Perry Admits He Was Member Of Klan

Declares He Resigned More Than 25 Years Ago; Makes New Plea

Circuit Solicitor Emmett Perry last night issued a statement saying he was a member of the Ku Klux Klan more than a quarter of a century ago.

The solicitor said he quit the organization soon after he joined it when he "sensed the course the K. K. K. was going to take."

Mr. Perry's statement follows in full:

One of the most deplorable instances of unequal "justice" in the history of Alabama is now being enacted in certain Jefferson-Shelby County cases, as handled by the attorney general in one county (with the case of about 300 beater-terrorizers in Shelby County seemingly ignored by him) and the different "courses" by judges in the two counties.

In a Jefferson County case, supposedly to punish actual illegal beaters, has not the best known result been to keep in jail a man who has not only not been convicted, but has not even been publicly accused, of taking part in

From Where I Stand

Rank-And-File Klan Man Must Wonder What The Score Is!

BY VULCAN

IF YOU WANT to plunk out $10 or $15 for a sheet and pillow slip, there are several Klan organizations you can join up with.

Here in Alabama you have three choices.

You can pitch in your lot with the Federated Ku Klux Klan of William Hugh Morris, of Birmingham.

VULCAN

Or you can join up with the Rev. Alvin Horn of Talladega.

Or you can crowd under the sheets with the more ornate Klan of Imperial Emperor Lycurgus Spinks, now of Montgomery.

Over in Georgia you can align yourself with former Policeman Samuel W. Roper who stepped into the office held by Dr. Samuel

In Florida the Klan is headed by Mr. 4-006800 who bears the title, Samuel II.

For my money I would take the old Imperial Emperor Lycurgus Spinks who likes his hair and his cigars long—and his speeches longer.

Lycurgus is the glamor boy of the Klan leaders. He wears silvery locks, shoulder length, a Panhandle hat and juke box pants with rug-cutter pleats.

Lycurgus has a dramatic way of handling a little pill bottle from which he fingers tiny white pellets into his mouth during public occasions. Every mannerism, the slightest gesture or throat rumble comes from a master of the art of elocution.

Lycurgus and William Hugh aren't speaking these days. And various Klan leaders are viewing one another with suspicious eyes.

It looks as if a rank-and-file card-holder is going to have a hard time pretty soon knowing whom to call boss.

What 'Majesty' Involved?

To the Editor:

Looking back over 80 years of life, this writer is glad that as we are not living under Stalin, the people of Alabama can still speak about the public acts of elected officials.

any illegal beatings, while in Shelby County, of the 300, were not only three punished at all, and was even one sent to jail for even one day?

The man kept in jail in Birmingham says that only three Klansmen were involved in any illegal beatings, but are all the others to be condemned, though taking no part in any beatings? And in Shelby County have the "records" of the organization to which the 300 are said to belong, been demanded by the attorney general or any Shelby judge? Also now about the "records" in the Jefferson County case of the cruel beating of a bus passenger who was trying to work?

The writer, not a member of any Klan or any union, will add that while the attorney general and two Birmingham judges may have the "legal right" to do what they have done, and are doing, and while the state Supreme Court may have the power to uphold a lower judge no matter what he may do, there is a court of public opinion—above the reach of any jailing officials. That court can judge for itself whether or not real justice to all is being exhibited by some officials, regardless of their technical and very drastic powers, and if the judgment of that public court is that what is being observed is not so much a demonstration of "the majesty of the law" as a demonstration of the majestic powers of some court officials, then the results can be very bad—upon both the law-abiding and the lawless throughout the entire state.

J. M. GLENN.

Midway, Ala.

[illegible]ded The Wrong Way

Two Negroes were the first to feel the pinch of the Alabama anti-masking law, and we are glad for them. According to news accounts, two young Negroes, one 19 and the other 21, together with others not yet apprehended, organized a Ku Klux Klan of their own last [illegible] to frighten Negro girls for reportedly having illicit relations [illegible] white men.

[illegible]peat, we are glad that the law has caught these irresp[illegible]en and clamped them under the only sort of influence they can understand.

So far as we are concerned, we know nothing we can think of in connection with the whole procedure than the fact that the men were trying to ape what white mobsters have been doing all around them. But they failed in the most important essential. When white mobsters hear of such illicit relations going on, they go out and get the Negro man and flog or lynch him, rather than frightening the woman. Just why, were they so careful in not choosing to flog the white men? Are they a bunch of little cowards? Did some white group put them up to such a prank? Who are they to set themselves up as the guardians of public morals?

Let these little misguided bigots address themselves to their personal business, if they have any, and leave these matters to leaders whose influence among Negroes mean much more than theirs can ever mean. They make it infinitely difficult for those of the race who are pleading for law and order to be heard when they go out fighting the very thing we have been working to achieve. There is nothing great in what they did. There is everything foolish and moronic about it and we hope it will never happen again. For we cannot settle mob-violence with mob-violence. And those very Negroes down in Ozark, Alabama should know that better than most Negroes, since they live in the midst of the worst form of fear and intimidation.

Kluxer Freed; Promises To Produce Records

BIRMINGHAM—(UP)—William Hugh Morris, jailed Alabama Ku Klux Klan leader, yesterday accepted a challenge to produce Klan records for a grand jury and was released under $500 bond.

Morris had been in jail since July 7 on a contempt of court order by Circuit Judge Robert J. Wheeler. The jurist later offered to allow him bond if he would promise to produce the records.

Morris accepted that offer only a few hours after another jurist had refused to act on a motion for his release. In the meantime, the Klan records had been reported stolen from the Klansman's home.

There was no immediate sign that Morris knew where the records might be, if they were indeed stolen. When his wife first reported them missing, he threatened to prosecute the burglars to the full extent of a death-penalty housebreaking law.

Sol. Emmett Perry announced that he would probably recall the grand jury within a few days, to allow Morris to appear. Judge Wheeler is now in a hospital suffering from virus pneumonia.

The action getting Morris his freedom emptied the Jefferson County jail of men allegly connected with Klan activities and night-riding violence in the area. Holiness Preacher R. C. Lyons earlier made $4,000 bond.

Klan Head's Fate Is Put To Circuit Judge Bailes

KLAN CHIEF AGAIN BEFORE COURT—Alabama Klan Chief William Hugh Morris is shown with his wife this morning after he testified before the Grand Jury. He was scheduled to go before Circuit Judge Lewis Bailes this afternoon in another hearing on missing Klan records. Morris spent 16 days in jail for refusing to produce the records. He says they were stolen from his home last week. Morris said he told the jury today he would turn the records over to it if they could be found.

'Impossible' To Show Records, Top Klansman Tells Jurors

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., July 28 —(AP)—Klan leader William Hugh Morris today told a grand jury it was "physically impossible" to produce Klan records for the jury because they have been stolen.

The state argued that he should be returned to jail immediately until the secret files are produced. There was no indication when Judge George Lewis Bailes would rule on the case.

The jury wants the white-robed order's records for use in an investigation of violence by hooded mobs here.

Open Hearing Held

Morris' statement was disclosed in open court at a hearing to determine if he has cleared himself of contempt of court. He spent 16 days in jail in the contempt citation after refusing to bring the records before a grand jury.

The disclosure was made as a court stenographer read an account of Morris' testimony before the jury this morning. The jury questioned the Klan leader for more than an hour in closed session.

State Atty. Gen. Albert A. Carmichael argued that Morris, "in his own words, says he has the ability to comply with the court order.

"This man has certainly earned his way back into jail."

No Effort Made

Morris told the grand jury, on questioning by Solicitor Emmett Perry, he has "made no specific effort to get a new list of Klan members."

He said he is now willing to supply it if he were able to obtain a new list.

Tells Of 4 Klaverns

Morris, who is director of the Federated Ku Klux Klans, Inc., said there are four Klaverns in Jefferson County.

He said they are the Robert E Lee Klavern in Birmingham Stonewall Jackson in Adamsville, and one each in Tarrant and Bessemer.

He refused to give the address of the Bessemer Klavern, saying: "I know the address, but I don't give it to you."

He disclosed addresses of the other three meeting places.

The Klan leader has been before the court on two previous occasions in regard to the records.

Story Different

Morris' tale this time was different from two previous such appearances. On those occasions he refused to bring the records, denying anyone's right to force what he termed a "betrayal of trust."

This time, Morris contended the records are not in his possession, having been stolen from his home last week. That act came while Morris was serving 16 days in jail for his first refusal to bring the records before the court.

A grand jury investigating masked mob violence called Morris before it this morning. He was in the jury room an hour, then was told to await further orders.

The order was for him to appear before Judge Bailes.

BESSEMER, ALA., July 28 —(AP)—A request by William Hugh Morris, Alabama's top Klan leader, to hold a Ku Klux Klan meeting in the Bessemer Stadium Saturday was denied today.

Grand Jury Asks To Be Heard; All Testimony Aired

Whether Klan Leader William Hugh Morris has purged himself of contempt of court will be decided today by Circuit Judge Georg Lewis Bailes.

The Grand Jury came before Judge Bailes at 2:05 p.m. and asked to be heard.

Atty. Gen. Albert A. Carmichael told the court he proposed to have read to the court a transcript of all testimony taken before the Grand Jury this morning.

MORRIS TESTIFIED for more than an hour before the Grand Jury which was called into special session officially to receive Klan records.

Morris signed a conditional bond Saturday by which he agreed to produce the records before this Grand Jury. Previously he had refused to produce records of the hooded order and had been cited for contempt of court by Circuit Judge Robert J. Wheeler.

The conditional bond was signed after Morris had served 16 days in County Jail and after the Klan records had been reportedly stolen from his home in Mt. Olive.

Judge Bailes told Solicitor Perry and Carmichael that "this court must know whether Morris has purged himself of contempt of court by complying with the order of Judge Wheeler and the conditions of his bond."

Atty. Hugh Locke, representing Morris, objected to the proceeding on the ground the defendant had not been told of the charges now against him.

Locke said no new subpoena duces tecum had been issued against Morris when he was called before the Grand Jury this time.

Carmichael said this was not a new procedure. "There is nothing here relating even remotely to a new contempt charge. We are proceeding under orders issued by Judge Wheeler on July 7 and 9."

JUDGE WHEELER sentenced Morris to jail for contempt of court on July 7 and fixed the conditional bond on July 9.

The Grand Jury reporter began reading from shorthand notes of the morning's Grand Jury testimony at 2:30 p.m. Carmichael had told the court that the reading would take perhaps two hours.

Morris sat during the proceeding with his attorney at the council table. Mrs. Morris sat with state investigators on a seat nearby.

Shortly after he emerged from the Grand Jury room today, Morris told newsmen, the Klan would change its rules regarding secrecy of membership, "if it is the law of the land that the records cannot remain secret."

"The Klan since 1867 has had a tradition of secrecy for its members and it has been my view that we were well within our legal rights in keeping the rolls secret," Morris said. "But the Klan does not set itself up as above the law, and if it is the law of the land we will change our rules to conform with the law."

MORRIS WAS CALLED into the Grand Jury room 20 minutes after the special session began at 9:30 a.m.

He carried no brief case or other visible signs of records with him at that time. He told reporters he had been unable to find the missing records.

Morris, who spent 16 days in jail for refusing to bring the secret records before a previous Grand Jury, said he would now turn them over to the jury if he can find them. He says they were stolen from his home July 20.

He added that it had never been his intention to defy the court and he thought he was within his legal rights in seeking to protect secrets of the white-robed order.

But, Morris continued, he had now changed his mind because of a State Supreme Court decision. The high court, in declining to review Morris' contempt citation recently, said he had no legal grounds for refusing to produce the records.

* * *

THE KLAN LEADER said the order will hold another public meeting in Bessemer Saturday with Dr. Lycurgus Spinks, Thomasville, Ala., as the speaker. He said it would be similar to one held at nearby Tarrant.

The Klan had made application for use of the Bessemer Stadium for Saturday afternoon. Charles A. Long, president of the Bessemer Board of Education, said today that, although the board had not met, he "felt sure" the Klan would not be permitted to use the stadium.

Several reporters who interviewed Morris while he was in jail were subpoenaed by the Grand Jury.

Also waiting to be called were officers who accompanied Morris to his home last Saturday to permit him to hunt for the records.

He twice before refused to bring the records before a Grand Jury.

Morris signed a conditional bond last Saturday by which he agreed to produce the records before this Grand Jury.

There is one hitch—Morris claims he no longer has the records. He says they were stolen from his Mount Olive home during a burglary last week.

Neither the court nor Grand Jury has officially recognized Morris' plea concerning the stolen records.

Circuit Judge Alta L. King rejected Morris' plea last Saturday in which the portly Klan boss asked for a modification of the original decree on the grounds that the records have been stolen.

* * *

THE CONDITIONAL bond which Morris signed later that day said nothing of the stolen records.

The $500 bond had been fixed by Circuit Judge Robert J. Wheeler two days after Morris was first placed in County Jail for contempt of court for refusing to furnish the records to the Grand Jury.

The bond conditions remained unchanged at the time it was signed after the records were allegedly stolen.

By signing the bond, Morris promised to furnish the records. Earlier — before the burglary—he had stated that he "would let the jail rot down around him" before he would give up the secrets of the hooded order.

STATE ATTY. GEN. Albert Carmichael and two of his assistants conferred much of the day yesterday with Sol. Emmett Perry and state investigators.

The state was apparently mapping its course of action in the event Morris does not produce the records as promised.

Morris was expected to be

among the first witnesses called before the Grand Jury this morning.

This is the second special Grand Jury session since that body recessed after its first regular session on July 15. At that time it asked to be called back into session at any time evidence was available concerning masked floggings.

* * *

CIRCUIT JUDGE George Lewis Bailes, who organized the Grand Jury, called it back into session at the request of Solicitor Perry.

It was Judge Wheeler who cited Morris for contempt when he refused to furnish Klan records to the Spring Grand Jury.

Judge King declined to modify Judge Wheeler's decree after Morris had served 16 days in jail.

Klan Flogging Proof Claimed By Carmichael

Author Of Anti-Masking Law Narrowly Escaped, House Group Is Told

Alabama's attorney general yesterday told a legislative committee there is "definite proof" that Ku Klux Klan members took part in recent floggings.

Attorney General Albert A. Carmichael testified before the House Judiciary Committee and urged the revocation of the Klan charter. Carmichael said the Klan not only participated in at least four recent floggings in the vicinity of Jefferson County (Birmingham) but also "instigated those acts and . . . they were official action of the Federated Ku Klux Klan, Inc."

Carmichael also charged the Klan with planning the flogging of State Senator Henry "Bene" Mize of Tuscaloosa County, author of the anti-masking law recently passed by the legislature. However, he said the Klan limited its action to a parade through Tuscaloosa after a member had talked others out of the flogging.

The attorney general vigorously objected to a statement by Jefferson County Solicitor Emmett Perry who said nothing had been proved to link the KKK with recent acts of terrorism.

Regalia Identified

Taylor Hardin, one of Carmichael's assistants, told the committee the official regalia of the Klan was "positively identified" during a Jefferson County grand jury investigation into night riding activities. Evidence that Klan members participated in floggings on direct orders from KKK officials and that the acts were carried out by official design was also uncovered, Hardin said.

Cecil S. Sanderson, a state investigator assigned to the Klan investigation, said one Klavern has been responsible for four out of five floggings in the Jefferson County area.

Sanderson said the Stonewall Jackson Klavern of Adamsville was responsible. Three of the approximately 50 members of the Klavern admitted they were in cars at floggings, he said.

17,800 In State

The investigator told members that he had been advised there are 6,500 Klan members in Jefferson County and about 17,800 in Alabama.

At one point in the hearing, Carmichael said his office "condemns unlawfullness by any union or any labor organization as much as we do by the Klan."

The statement was made after a committee member asked whether recent coal mine violence near Birmingham had been investigated. Carmichael answered that a grand jury has already returned indictments growing out of a Shelby County incident.

Jack Brock, former state president of the American Federation of Labor and brother of Elmer Brock, Brookside, Ala., chief of police who was one of 17 persons indicted by the Jefferson County grand jury for terrorist activity, labeled the whole investigation a "trumped-up political stunt."

Opposes Move

He said he opposed any move to revoke the charter of any organization for "something a few of its members do."

Brock took issue with a statement by Carmichael describing Klansmen as a bunch of "hoodlums and bums." He said "men of higher calibre than this man have belonged to the Klan."

Carmichael was bombarded by members with questions as to why he has not gone ahead with court action to have the charter revoked. The attorney general answered by saying the suit was being prepared and would be instigated soon. Pressed for an exact date, Carmichael said in a week, 10 days or two weeks.

The committee took no action other than to issue a statement that it would not try to influence the Jefferson County delegation if it decides to introduce a local bill to revoke the charter.

All But Killed

Other committee action saw the Senate Temperance Committee all but kill a bill to bar the sale of liquor except at state stores. It postponed the bill until the last legislative day, leaving it with little chance of passing at that late date.

The House Ways and Means Committee referred to a three-man subcommittee a general appropriations bill after ending a preliminary study.

Reps. Wallace Gibson of Jefferson, Werth Thagard of Butler and Bunyan D. Broadwater of Limestone were named to the committee.

Meanwhile, a local bill to legalize horse racing and establish pari-mutuel betting in Russell County is being advertised by Rep. J. W. Brassell.

The measure is appearing in the Phenix City Herald and will probably be introduced shortly after its fourth week next Wednesday. All local bills must be advertised for four weeks before being introduced.

A general bill seeking to set up the same thing on a statewide basis is now on the Senate adverse calendar and a similar measure was killed in the House.

The executive committee of the Russell County Baptist Association is opposing the bill and has sent letters to each member of the legislature. The letters claim the proposal would legalize gambling and that gambling is against the "teaching of virtuous living."

Rep. Brassell was not available for comment.

Legislature Today

House Rules Committee meeting in speaker's office at 8:30 a.m.

House meets at 9 a.m. Major bills on calendar for action would abolish encumbrances; increase income tax rate on corporations from 3 to 5 per cent; give the people the power of initiative and referendum; restrict presidential terms to two (amendment of U. S. Constitution); permit the state to participate in regional education; permit the people to vote on a $40,000,000 road bond issue; reapportion the House; reorganize the State Prison Department.

Senate meets at 9 a.m. Major bills on calendar for action would give each county a senator; refund to owners of farm tractors part of the state tax on gas used in such tractors; permit the people to vote on a $40,000,000 road bond issue; regulate lobbying; reregister voters; establish a hospital for alcoholics; reapportion the House; provide for a liquor referendum, and a series of "economy" bills.

Klan on Rampage in Three Dixie States

MONTGOMERY, Ala.—The klan has gone out on a reign of terror, slugging a white woman, terrorizing a cafe operator, his wife, and Negroes in the vicinity, and holding hood and sheet parades. The woman slugged is Mrs. Hugh McDanal, 42, who recently underwent an operation for a brain hemorrhage. Mrs. McDanal, who lives five miles from Birmingham, said she was struck on the head. Her husband, a bakery worker, was working night shift when the klansmen came.

The klan hoodlums threatened to string her up and burn her. They dragged her out to her front lawn where a six-foot cross was burning.

When Mrs. McDanal told them the police had been called, they laughed and said, "We're the law ourselves. And even if someone is sent, there will be only two of them."

★

THE ATTACKED WOMAN said that she pulled the masks off of several of the klansmen and feels that she could identify them. Circuit Solicitor Emmett Perry promised to call a grand jury back into session as soon as sufficient evidence is presented to his office as to the identity of the Kluxers.

The klansmen accused her of dancing in the nude, running an immoral house and selling whiskey. Mrs. McDanal denied these accusations vigorously and said she was not frightened and fought the invaders as best she could.

The same night, about 16 carloads of hooded klansmen stopped at a cafe in Brookside. Here they threatened Steve Marshlar, owner of the cafe. One klansman told him: "We're tired of the goddamn Catholics running this town." Marshlar said he was not a Catholic but a member of the Russian Orthodox Church. They also told him: "You've got to keep these n----rs down."

While this lawless gang was threatening the lives of Brookside citizens, a Brookside police officer looked on, but made no move against it.

Arrogantly proud of their violent acts, the Ku Klux Klan paraded through two Southern cities recently. More than 125 men dressed in sheets and hoods paraded in the streets of Tuscaloosa, seat of the Alabama state university. Several weeks ago, the president of the university ordered that any student who tried to remove a flying Confederate flag be shot in the legs.

Tells Carmichael To Start Action Against Charter

Orders Proceedings Against Any Hooded Group In State

MONTGOMERY, Ala., June 17—Gov. James E. Folsom this afternoon instructed Atty. Gen. A. A. Carmichael to start immediately legal proceedings to revoke the charter of the Federated Ku Klux Klan, Inc.

The governor said he was asking the attorney general to take legal action to revoke the charter of any hooded organization incorporated under Alabama law.

He said he was attaching a copy of the papers of the organization he had in mind—the Federated Ku Klux Klan, whose charter was filed in Probate Court of Jefferson County.

The governor's action came after his Senate floor leader, Sen. Broughton Lamberth, failed to effect a truce which would have permitted action on the Mize anti-masking bill.

Sen. David U. Patton, Limestone, who earlier objected to suspension of the rules to give immediate consideration to the anti-masking bill was consulted by Sen. Lamberth. After a brief discussion Sen. Patton refused to withdraw his objection to immediate consideration.

* * *

"I AM FOR THE BILL but I see no reason to be all heated up about it right now just to give the governor a little publicity," Sen. Patton declared.

Gov. Folsom himself conferred with Lamberth in the Senate chamber and authorized his floor-leader to seek a truce.

At that time Gov. Folsom told reporters he was entirely willing for his leaders to suspend filibuster attempts long enough to get action on Sen. Mize's bill.

One of the reasons Sen. Patton said he would not remove his objections to the anti-masking bill, he said, was that administration forces had wasted more than half a day by insisting on reading The Journal.

He added that if the governor really wants to do something about law violations on the part of hooded men, he already has sufficient authority to act. The code, he said, lists these offenses which may have been committed as a result of recent activities of hooded men:

Abduction, routs and unlawful assemblies, affray assault, illegal conspiracy and disturbing females.

Under the Senate's rules unanimous consent is required to call up and pass a bill out of the regular order.

Sen. Patton's refusal to withdraw his objection thus ended all hopes of immediate action on the anti-masking proposal.

IN HIS MESSAGE, Folsom said recent activity of night riders, particularly in the Birmingham district, is a disgrace to the state and must be stopped.

"As chief executive," he continued, I am determined they will be stopped."

He said present laws are not adequate to cope with the situation. The measure he recommends would prohibit wearing of masks in public, except for children and during Mardi Gras and similar holidays.

The governor said "outrages" committed recently by night riders in Alabama are "worse than the lawless acts of the highwaymen of earlier days, for they tend to rob respectable citizens of their self respect."

Sen. Rankin Fite, of Marion, a Folsom lieutenant, explained why the administration bloc refused to agree to halt the reading of The Journal to take up the bill.

He said they would take such action if the anti-administration group would permit reading of The Journal to be resumed after considering the anti-masking measure.

Fite said the administration bloc was acting on its own in the filibuster and not on the governor's orders.

Bill To Outlaw Hoods Is Delayed

MONTGOMERY, Ala., June 15—A bill to prohibit the wearing of masks in public has been made a matter of special order by the Legislature.

It will not be taken up, however, until 30-odd bills to restrict state spending are disposed of.

Sen. Henry Mize, of Tuscaloosa County, author of the bill, urged special consideration because of recent activity of hooded mobs in Jefferson County.

A move to study the bill immediately was tabled by the Senate, 16-15.

Lawyer To Take Morris Appeal To Highest Court

Jury Recessed On Confused Notes; No Indictments Made

Atty. Hugh Locke said today he will ask the U. S. Supreme Court to rule on the contempt of court conviction of William Hugh Morris, a director of the Federated Ku Klux Klan, Inc.

The attorney said that this action would be taken if the Alabama Supreme Court does not reverse its ruling holding Morris guilty of contempt. Locke said a motion for rehearing before the Alabama tribunal will be filed within the 15-day time allotted.

Locke said he does not know what, if any, attempt will be made to obtain bond for his client.

The Summer Grand Jury investigating "night riders" was in recess today after a five-day session that ended in confusion and no indictments.

Meanwhile Klan Leader William Hugh Morris bided his time in County Jail on contempt charges for failure to produce records for the Spring Grand Jury.

That Grand Jury adjourned two days before the present Grand Jury was organized.

Morris lost an appeal to the Supreme Court yesterday when justices ruled, four to two, that Judge J. Wheeler's contempt sentence should stand.

* * *

HUGH LOCKE, Morris' attorney, today was expected to file a habeas corpus writ before a circuit judge other than Judge Wheeler to free the Klan leader.

Here is the Klan situation at a glance:

1. The State Supreme Court says Morris must remain in jail until he produces Klan records for the Grand Jury.

2. One member of the Summer Grand Jury was disqualified because of membership in the Ku Klux Klan, which is being investigated by the same Grand Jury.

3. Another member of the jury was disqualified because he had never regained citizenship after being convicted in Federal Court 18 years ago for a interstate commerce theft charge.

4. Grand Jury Foreman Ronald H. Edwards yesterday asked Judge Bailes in open court to reexamine qualifications of the jury after published criticism of the composition of the body.

5. Judge Bailes today said he had no intention to reexamine the qualifications, declaring "There could be no point in it. Tests of qualifications were made at the time the jury was organized."

6. Sixteen men have been arrested in masked mob cases on indictments by the Spring jury. One is yet to be arrested.

7. The Summer jury has asked to be recessed until Aug. 29.

8. Solicitor Emmett Perry says he will continue investigation of masked mobs in Jefferson County.

9. The Jefferson County Jury Commission will fill new jury boxes sometimes this month or early next month.

10. Atty. Gen. Albert Carmichael is expected to file a suit in Jefferson County to dissolve the Federated Ku Klux Klan, Inc.

The fate of Morris was subject of speculation in legal circles today.

KKK Refuses Records 2nd Time

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., July 12.—A high official of the Ku Klux Klan today refused for a second time to reveal Klan records to a county grand jury.

William Hugh Morris, director

THE SPRING JURY which made a vigorous investigation of Klan activities and handed down 44 indictments on masked mob actions, demanded that Morris furnish Klan records.

Morris was held in direct contempt of court by Judge Wheeler when he refused.

The Grand Jury was discharged.

The Summer jury also asked Morris to produce the same records. He refused.

The Summer jury then asked Judge Bailes to cite Morris for contempt of court.

Judge Bailes delayed a hearing on the jury's request.

This left the Summer jury as going on record demanding that Morris produce the same information asked by the Spring jury.

But Judge Bailes' delay in citing Morris for contempt possibly may leave a legal loophole through which Atty. Locke may seek Morris' freedom.

The Supreme Court decision, however, still leaves Morris answerable to a Grand Jury.

of the Federated Ku Klux Klans, Inc., told newsmen he had been "asked the same questions" and had given "the same answers." As he left the jury room he said he would not reveal Klan secrets.

Morris is now serving a jail sentence for contempt of court. It was imposed last Thursday for his refusal to produce Klan records for a previous grand jury.

Woman Says Threat Made On Husband

Malcolm Garner, of 220 Park Street, Bessemer, reported to Bessemer police his wife had received a threat that "your husband will be taken out and whipped."

Mrs. Garner told officers the threat came by telephone. The voice, she said, sounded like an attempt was made to disguise it.

GARNER, a salesman who recently moved to Bessemer from Lipscomb, applied to the sheriff's office today for permission to carry a pistol.

Mrs. Garner said the telephone caller told her the husband would be flogged for "whipping the baby."

* * *

GARNER SAID he sometimes spanks his 3-year-old son for punishment.

"But I never really hurt the child," he said. "Anybody can examine him at any time. You have to spank a child sometimes to make him mind."

GOVERNOR DEFIES KLAN IN ALABAMA

Pledges Ruthless Drive to Curb Mob Violence

(The Associated Press)

Birmingham, Ala., June 26—Gov. James E. Folsom said Sunday in a statewide radio broadcast that he is using every means at the administration's disposal to stamp out mob violence.

He gave the assurance in one of his periodic "reports to the people." The governor spoke from radio station WAPI here.

Folsom reviewed recent activity of nightriders. "These would-be Hitlers," he said, "have prowled the streets at night, burning their crosses, frightening innocent women and children, and beating up veterans and workers."

Masked organizations "won't be tolerated as long as I am governor," he added.

He said he has issued an executive order to state officers to assist local police in arresting offenders, so that Alabama can prove it is coping with the situation.

Every outbreak, he said, is being given intensive investigation. A number of state investigators have been sent to the Birmingham district to aid in such work. He urged citizens to help police officers "remove this scourge from Alabama," and added:

"We must prove that Alabama is able to defend the fundamental rights of all citizens, regardless of race, color or creed."

Klan Leaders Disagree

Meanwhile the top two Ku Klux Klan leaders in Alabama were in disagreement Sunday on whether their members will unmask voluntarily.

Members of the Legislature said it didn't make any difference what they decided—that the white-robed men would be required to remove their hoods, anyway, by an antimasking bill up for passage this week.

Dr. E. P. Pruitt, chairman of the board of governors of the Federated Ku Klux Klan, Inc., said Saturday night he had directed that Klansmen remove their visors (hoods) for everything except initiations and similar ceremonies.

But William Hugh Morris, the Klan's director, said Pruitt "doesn't have authority to hand out that order."

"I seriously doubt," he added, "that such action will be taken" by the board of governors. Morris said no meeting of the board was scheduled to consider the plan.

Questioned on Morris' statement, Pruitt replied: "I am the presiding officer of the Klan." He said he had not other comment.

State Senator Henry H. Mize, Tuscaloosa, author of the antimasking measure, said the bill "is aimed at all organizations and people who use masks." He said any action by the Klan doesn't "alter the need for the law one iota."

Speaker William Beck of the House of Representatives said the same thing. He predicted the House would complete passage of the bill Tuesday.

Bishop Labels Lash 'Anarchy'

Ashland Pastor, Despite Threats, Also Condemns Terrorism In Clay County

ASHLAND, Ala., July 4—"Pure anarchy."

That's how Alabama's recent "law by lash" was described in Lineville yesterday by Bishop Clare Purcell of the Methodist Church.

The Rev. Frank Ledford, pastor of the Ashland Methodist Church, also strongly condemned recent terrorization of Negroes in Clay County. He did this despite the fact that he had been told not to go to town yesterday because the "temper of the town" was against him.

While the two ministers delivered their verbal blasts at gang and mobism, a retired Anniston business man, W. B. Tate, said this:

"I was born in Clay County and . . . this is the first time anything has ever happened that has found

Pictures on Pages 23, 30

so many people on the same side. I believed 98 per cent of the people of Clay County think that there is not a thing to all of this."

Tate deplored the "publicity this thing has brought." He thinks "Clay County has been done a great injustice" by the publicity.

One of the Negro flogging victims, Willie Horton, was arrested Saturday on charges of having carnal knowledge of a child and administering drugs to a child.

SHERIFF'S DEPUTIES accuse him of luring a 14-year-old Negro girl into the woods near Ashland, forcing her to drink whisky and then raping her. Horton, a veteran of World War II, was arrested late Saturday in Anniston, according to Sheriff Rhett Owens.

One of the mysteries of the flogging wave also was cleared late Saturday when three young men admitted that they had shot holes in a playing card found near an alleged "whipping ground" in the High Pine community.

Holes in the card matched holes found in a shirt nearby. This had led some citizens to speculate on the possibility of murder.

The three men, W. L. Moore, Jr., Lewis Moore and Billy Sumrelin, explained that they shot holes in the card during target practice.

They said they were fishing on a lake nearby and decided to get in some target practice with a .22-caliber rifle. The card was the five of hearts.

They knew nothing of the shirt. Deputy Sheriff Ralph Ham declared that the Horton man and his brother, Hersey, who also has been flogged, have prison records.

* * *

STATE INVESTIGATORS also checked into a threat made to the family of Lum Watts, near Ashland. The family received a hand-written note telling them that their daughter, Geruthy, had been slipping out with men and boys. They were told that if she kept this up, "action" would be taken. There would be no more warnings, the crudely written note said.

It bore "K. K. K." as a signature.

In his sermon at Lineville yesterday Bishop Purcell quoted the Declaration of Independence, the Bill of Rights and said the rise of mob violence in Alabama is "pure anarchy."

"Should this condition prevail," he continued, "our property values will drop to a fraction of their real worth, and the entire fabric of our civilization will fall apart."

He spoke at Lineville Methodist Church celebrating the 43rd anniversary of his license to preach for the Methodist Church.

"This is not the way to cure any defect in our democracy," Bishop Purcell said, "If enforcement agencies fail to perform their duties, the legal way is to replace them. This is an appeal to reason to all who may have become enmeshed in any organization which resorts to illegal acts to perform what may be considered a good end."

* * *

BOTH HE AND THE Rev. Ledford reported a good response to their sermons.

The Rev. Ledford's topic was "Christ or the Klan?" He pointed to the purpose of the founding fathers in setting down the principles of democracy and called upon his congregation to "implore divine wisdom. . . . These are perilous times. . . . We need rightly to evaluate the basic Christian principles upon which our American civilization is founded.

"If the Klan or any other group has teachings, actual or inferred contrary to these above . . . they are neither Christians nor Americans.

"If we even remotely condone any principles contrary to those set down in the bill of rights and in the life of Christ, then we neither are Christians nor Americans."

Both ministers declared that freedom from fear is one of the greatest assets of democracy and called for keeping the sanctity of the home. They pointed out that before a home can be entered legally, there must be a warrant duly executed.

Investigation of the six known floggings is continuing under supervision of Bankhead Bates, director of the State Department of Safety.

Mr. Bates arrived in Ashland Saturday to personally participate with his several other investigators who had been working under J. V. Kitchens, one of the department's top men.

* * *

BOTH OF THE METHODIST MINISTERS who brought about the investigation have been threatened because of their interest.

The Rev. Luther Brown, who with the Rev. Ledford, called the floggings to the attention of the law, was threatened Friday night.

Brown said his threat came at a community prayer meeting in Millerville. He said a man came to him and told him that "you are pretty high on the list to be flogged."

He quoted the man as adding that "it won't be long, either."

Ala. Organizes To Halt Roving Terrorists

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—(INS)—Reinforced units of the Alabama State Highway Patrol were guarding the Jefferson county area Thursday night against roving bands of terroristic nightriders.

And all Alabama residents have been asked by Gov. James Folsom to report tag numbers of automobiles taking part in demonstrations of the hooded mobs.

Folsom said in Montgomery today he had done everything in his power to protect residents of the Birmingham area except call out the national guard. He added:

"I won't leave a stone unturned in my efforts to stop this. Aand I'm sure local officials feel the same way."

Meanwhile, Birmingham today had a respite from the series of night raids as officials pressed along with investigation of the lashing of a navy veteran and other acts of violence.

The latest victim of the hooded terrorist (?) Billy Guyton Stovall, the navy veteran, who was lashed twenty times Tuesday night by a band of masked assailants.

The hooded mobs have been called members of the Ku Klux Klan, but Dr. Samuel Green, the Kluxer Grand Dragon in Atlanta, denied that his Klansmen would take the law into their hands in such a manner.

Voice Of Th[e People]

Living In Fear

To the Editor:

Thank you for printing the truth. I'm sure the citizens, who are not K. K. K. and saw the hooded things who ride at night only visit the very [illegible] just know a[illegible] the victims.

I have been married to one of the victims for 11 years and I will put his record up against any man's in Jefferson County.

I have four daughters. They are really just babies, ages 8, 6 and 4, but I can say that these cowards who rode on our husband and father have made cowards of all five of us. I shall never put these four babies to bed again with the security, they as Americans deserve, until these hooded cowards are run down and punished.

MRS. STEVE MARSHLAR,
Brookside, Ala.

We Are Going Forward!

Over the past week-end citizens of Jefferson County were bombarded with new facts relative to the investigation of hooded mobs. They had every right to be thoroughly confused, and even sorely troubled at developments.

But there is no real reason for any belief that the investigation will not be continued.

The Jefferson County Grand Jury is not adjourned, but merely is in recess. It can be called back into session any time between now and Aug. 29.

Solicitor Emmett Perry is continuing to press the investigating, in so far as he is able to do so. Of course, the bulk of investigative work thus far has been carried out by the four Folsom-assigned state men. These men report to Mr. Perry.

A cardinal fact, certainly not to be overlooked, is the presence of William Hugh Morris in jail. His attorney, Hugh Locke, still seeks to get him out.

Judge Bailes said Friday that he did not understand that the jury foreman had requested that the Grand Jury membership be investigated. This was in direct contrast to statements by the jury foreman himself and by Solicitor Perry. There has been no adequate explanation of this confusion.

Investigation of the jury membership might be helpful. With the former Klan member, along with the man convicted in an interstate commerce case, excused, however, there is no apparent reason why this jury should not consider evidence of mob violence.

Inquiry into Grand Jury selection methods should be considered a separate and perhaps a long range investigation. Undue emphasis on that matter at this point might hamper the effort to root out mob violence.

Judge Bailes still has an opportunity to bring Mr. Morris forward in yet another effort to get Klan records. It seems certain that if those records are produced, they at least will provide additional material into which investigators may dig. It is conceivable that the records might turn up material not even suspected now. But no one can know until the records become available. Perhaps it may be asked if there is not some way they may be obtained other than by action of Mr. Morris himself handing them over.

Let the public understand that in a procedure of such great complexity, all issues do not always stand out in bold relief. Shadings and emphases are often many and overlapping. The business of getting at the source of such troubles as we have had is neither short nor is it carried forward successfully if we become discouraged at each stumbling block.

Let us continue to express our full and vigorous determination to outmaneuver the defenders of hoodism. Let us reiterate our demand for continued, vigorous action.

There would seem to be matters at hand which well might claim the attention of the "Committee of 500," from which not much has been heard lately.

And there have not been reports lately of continued action on the part of the sheriff to help unearth evidence. A major responsibility remains his.

The Error Persists

One of the worst aspects of the flogging situation in Alabama is the way in which some persons, some of them of considerable intelligence, defend the attacks. A common opinion among these defenders of floggings, as expressed by one letter-writer to *The News*, is that "There are times when law and order do not seem to be sufficient."

Undoubtedly there are bad situations which law enforcement agencies have not cleared up. And there may be definitely bad conditions which the law has not seemed able to reach.

But the cure for these situations and conditions is not to go outside the law. The cure lies in strengthening the law and its operations. It lies in building up the right kind of public opinion.

For when men put the law behind them, they only make worse the conditions they deplore. It is conceivable, of course, that they might achieve some minor and temporary improvement, but the evils they create are worse and more numerous than those they remedy. A hundred weeds grow up, eventually, where they killed only one.

Alabama is already seeing the truth of that fact. Because some groups, hiding behind hoods and robes, have claimed that good resulted from their raids and so far they have escaped punishment for their crimes, other groups and individuals have presumed to take the law into their own hands for purposes of petty spite and personal revenge. These cases apparently outnumber the other type.

One lawless act which seems to have any color of provocation breeds worse lawless acts, and the progeny is prolific. Law becomes weakened, and respect for authority declines. For the most trivial of reasons, men will arrogate police powers to themselves. And soon, if that keeps up, every man's hand will be lifted against his neighbor, and there will be peace and security nowhere.

There is an assumption of innocence in this land. No man should be considered guilty until proved so. It is a profoundly wise and humane provision of our society. It applies to all persons, no matter what their crimes or what their situations.

We need to preserve and protect that assumption of innocence. It is our common bulwark against injustice. No man knows when he may have need of it. Our laws are designed to assure that assumption. They are intended to throw around every man the safeguards of time, of a fair hearing for his defense, to shield him from usurpation of power and exploitation. The law says that a man shall have fair opportunity to assist in the selection of the jury to try him. It says he shall not suffer cruel and unusual punishments. It seeks to guard him against errors through extensive rights of appeal. It gives him the right to advance knowledge, in detail, of the charge against him.

Night-riders, seeking to justify their crimes by saying that law and order are not sufficient, give their victims none of these protections of the law. And thereby, in weakening the law and respect for it, they make worse the very conditions they dislike. The law is weak, they say; so, with a lack of logic that is both amazing and disturbing, they weaken it further.

But the great majority of citizens know better than to do that. It is only a minority that seeks to defend the floggings. And, too, they are on the defensive, and know it. The great majority of citizens prefer to have the law on their side. They prefer to uphold the hands of the law, when it appears weak, rather than defy it. Their way will prevail.

Five-Battle Star Hero Is Flogged

(Special to The Courier)

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—Blood—good red American blood of a World War II hero—flowed into the soil of Alabama as hooded riders in open defiance of Federal and state laws continued to flog Negroes and whites in this state's newest unchecked reign of terror. The veteran was Willie Horton of Ashland.

Holder of the highly coveted Presidential Citation, five battle stars and the Army's Good Conduct Medal, Horton, a 33-year-old cafe operator, was beaten unmercifully by a white mob which lured him away from his home when two of the mobsters posed as officers.

Similar treatment was inflicted upon Olin Horton, his brother, who was lured away by the same sham.

Spirited away in a twenty-car caravan to hideous "whipping grounds" just bared to the probers of the state and FBI by two white ministers, the brothers, at seperate times, were brutally beaten with hickory sticks, blackjacks and pistol barrels.

As a still more ironic touch to this modern Inquisition, Olin Horton was later arrested on a charge of having had carnal knowledge of a 14-year-old girl, whose mother swore out a warrant for his arrest.

The arrest of Olin Horton was was the one and only thing done by the office of Clay County Sheriff Rhett Owens, who went to bed "suffering" from a nervous condition about the same time the Alabama Legislature banned the wearing of masks in this state.

Six victims in the Clay County area—three whites and three Negroes—have already told state law enforcement officers their stories of how they were taken to an abandoned graphite mine — the "whipping grounds" — and beaten into bloody masses.

Negro newspapermen seeking to get details of the newest wave of terror to sweep Alabama were warned flatly to "stay out" of the trouble areas if they valued their lives.

About the same time that whites were trying to absolve the Ku Klux Klan of responsibility for the terror wave, Alabama Congressman Sam Hobbs, a Democrat, was telling a House Judiciary subcommittee in a Washington probe of the Alabama lawlessness that victims of the floggings were whites and that no racial issues were involved, these more recent disclosures of the beating of the heroic war veteran and his brother came to light.

Critics in Washington immediately blasted Congressman Hobbs for his apparent "forgetfulness" of the recent dynamiting of several Negro-owned homes right here in Birmingham, including two owned by a Methodist Bishop. They further pointed out the complete apathy of the FBI and state law agencies until the floggers extended their activities to include white victims.

Typical of the attitude of white Alabamans was the remark of a white woman taxi driver who recently witnessed the burning of a cross. The woman reportedly told Clarke Stallworth, reporter for the local Post: "We are proud of the Klan. It is the only law in Walker County." This testimony was given to the House subcommittee in Washington.

White newsmen, resentful of the implications of Federal intervention, told the subcommittee that it would be better if Alabama were left alone to handle the situation herself. The terror wave area has expanded to include Walker, Jefferson, Talladega, Macon, Lee and Tuscaloosa counties, in addition to Clay County.

MINISTERS THREATENED

The two white ministers, the Revs. E. Frank Ledford of Ashland and Luther Brown of Millerville, have both been threatened because of their expose of the "whipping grounds" they discovered.

In the abandoned graphite mine, the ministers told reporters, they found blood-stained tattered remnants of clothing, hickory switches, a blood-covered grass rope and even a playing card punctured with shotgun pellets in the pocket of a bloody shirt.

The two Hortons, along with two other victims of the floggers, left the county to escape further harm.

NEW LAW IGNORED

Alabama's Legislature last week passed a bill outlawing masks and

Governor James E. Folsom immediately signed it into law effective at once. However, passage of the law was totally ignored in the Klan hotbed area for in several smaller communities in Jefferson County reports were made of the presence of hooded riders last Friday night, the night on which the Klan usually holds its meetings.

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The News
(3) Birmingham, Ala.

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Birmingham News
Jun. 7-22-49

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Birmingham, Ala.

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Pittsburgh, Pa.

(Special to The Courier)

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—Blood—good red American blood of a World War II hero—flowed into the soil of Alabama as hooded riders in open defiance of Federal and state laws continued to flog Negroes and whites in this state's newest unchecked reign of terror. The veteran was Willie Horton of Ashland.

Holder of the highly coveted Presidential Citation, five battle stars and the Army's Good Conduct Medal, Horton, a 33-year-old cafe operator, was beaten unmercifully by a white mob which lured him away from his home when two of the mobsters posed as officers. Sat. 7-9-49

Similar treatment was inflicted upon Olin Horton, his brother, who was lured away by the same sham.

Spirited away in a twenty-car caravan to hideous "whipping grounds" just bared to the probers of the state and FBI by two white ministers, the brothers, at seperate times, were brutally beaten with hickory sticks, blackjacks and pistol barrels.

As a still more ironic touch to this modern Inquisition, Olin Horton was later arrested on a charge of having had carnal knowledge of a 14-year-old girl, whose mother swore out a warrant for his arrest.

The arrest of Olin Horton was was the one and only thing done by the office of Clay County Sheriff Rhett Owens, who went to bed "suffering" from a nervous condition about the same time the Alabama Legislature banned the wearing of masks in this state.

Six victims in the Clay County area—three whites and three Negroes—have already told state law enforcement officers their stories of how they were taken to an abandoned graphite mine — the "whipping grounds" — and beaten into bloody masses.

Negro newspapermen seeking to get details of the newest wave of terror to sweep Alabama were warned flatly to "stay out" of the trouble areas if they valued their lives. Sat. 7-9-49

About the same time that whites were trying to absolve the Ku Klux Klan of responsibility for the terror wave, Alabama Congressman Sam Hobbs, a Democrat, was telling a House Judiciary subcommittee in a Washington probe of the Alabama lawlessness that victims of the floggings were whites and that no racial issues were involved, these more recent disclosures of the beating of the heroic war veteran and his brother came to light.

Critics in Washington immediately blasted Congressman Hobbs for his apparent "forgetfulness" of the recent dynamiting of several Negro-owned homes right here in Birmingham, including two owned by a Methodist Bishop. They further pointed out the complete apathy of the FBI and state law agencies until the floggers extended their activities to include white victims.

Typical of the attitude of white Alabamans was the remark of a white woman taxi driver who recently witnessed the burning of a cross. The woman reportedly told Clarke Stallworth, reporter for the local Post: "We are proud of the Klan. It is the only law in Walker County." This testimony was given to the House subcommittee in Washington. Sat. 7-9-49

White newsmen, resentful of the implications of Federal intervention, told the subcommittee that it would be better if Alabama were left alone to handle the situation herself. The terror wave area has expanded to include Walker, Jefferson, Talladega, Macon, Lee and Tuscaloosa counties, in addition to Clay County.

MINISTERS THREATENED

The two white ministers, the Revs. E. Frank Ledford of Ashland and Luther Brown of Millerville, have both been threatened because of their expose of the "whipping grounds" they discovered.

In the abandoned graphite mine, the ministers told reporters, they found blood-stained tattered remnants of clothing, hickory switches, a blood-covered grass rope and even a playing card punctured with shotgun pellets in the pocket of a bloody shirt.

The two Hortons, along with two other victims of the floggers, left the county to escape further harm.

NEW LAW IGNORED

Alabama's Legislature last week passed a bill outlawing masks and Governor James E. Folsom immediately signed it into law effective at once. However, passage of the law was totally ignored in the Klan hotbed area for in several smaller communities in Jefferson County reports were made of the presence of hooded riders last Friday night, the night on which the Klan usually holds its meetings.

Evidence Offered In Effort To Show House Not Robbed; Toxicologist Gives Views

News Mon. 8-1-49
Birmingham, Ala.

Solicitor Emmett Perry, in an all-out attempt to have Klan Boss William Hugh Morris recommitted to jail, presented testimony today in an apparent effort to show that the Morris home was not burglarized.

Associate State Toxicologist C. D. Brooks described the condition of the house as being in "orderly disarray."

Brooks, who examined the house minutely, said he found one drawer that had been overturned on the floor and the contents were not scattered. He said that apparently no search had been made of the contents of the drawer.

LINENS AND CLOTHING were taken from drawers and dropped on the floor, Brooks said. He said the sheets were not unfolded and that obviously no search had been made of the folds of the material. He said the clothing was not scattered, nor did it appear to have been thrown on the floor.

Brooks presented four pictures of the house's contents and they were placed in evidence.

Brooks was the first witness called by the state after Hugh Locke, attorney for Morris, had set out to prove that a burglary did occur.

Locke earlier announced that he intended calling witnesses because "to my amazement some doubt has been expressed concerning the burglary of the Morris home."

Locke called several witnesses, including Mrs. Morris, who testified that the house was in disorder.

Brooks said his examinations showed that furniture under which articles might have been concealed were never removed from the wall.

Mrs. Morris declared she knew her husband kept some records in a back porch filing cabinet and a card file system in a bureau drawer. She said, however, that she did not know the content of the records.

His wife denied that Morris, on being brought home to survey the confused scene, remarked:

"My beer's gone. I wonder if they got that too."

R. E. Lindberg, chief clerk in the sheriff's office who accompanied Morris to his home that day, previously testified that the Klan leader made this remark.

* * *

SOLICITOR EMMETT PERRY drew from Lindbergh the testimony that Morris said "I wonder if they got that too" before the Klan leader looked for the missing records.

State Atty. Gen. Albert Carmichael said that even if the state admitted the burglary occurred and the records were stolen it would make no difference in this case.

Carmichael said Morris had shown by his own testimony that he had the "opportunity, ability and power to create new records if he so desires."

* * *

ON CROSS-EXAMINATION by Solicitor Perry, Lindbergh told the court the place Morris pointed out as the spot from which filing cabinets were removed "wouldn't be a place where a man ordinarily would keep filing cabinets."

Linbergh told the court that when Morris first entered his home he opened the door of his icebox and exclaimed:

"My beer is gone. I wonder if they took it, too."

Solicitor Perry asked if Morris had said "I wonder if they took it too" before he looked for the missing records.

"Yes, he did," Lindbergh said.

"You remember distinctly that he said 'too'?" Perry asked.

"Yes, I do," Lindbergh replied.

The solicitor asked Lindbergh if "in your best judgment, do you believe that the storage room was disturbed?"

Linbergh replied that it did not appear to him to have been disturbed.

Lindbergh said that the other rooms of the house, except the kitchen, were disturbed and in a state of confusion.

Judge Bailes last Friday recessed court to allow Morris additional time to procure Klan records which had been requested by two separate Grand Juries.

MORRIS' REFUSAL to produce the records led to his being cited for contempt July 7 by Circuit Judge Robert J. Wheeler.

Though declaring that he would never produce Klan records, Morris later changed his mind and signed a conditional bond in which he promsied to bring the records before the court.

When court convened at 9:30 a.m., today, Morris took his seat beside his attorneys. He had no papers before him.

After several minutes' preliminary arguments, Locke made his statement that Morris offers no new evidence.

Speaking of Morris, Locke said "he had made every effort and has been unable to obtain any new records from any source."

THE STATEMENT which Locke read from a typewritten page continued to assert that Morris' home had been burglarized and Klan records stolen.

Locke first made objection to the court that the subpoena duces tecum (an order to produce records) was signed only by the solicitor and was not in proper form.

Judge Bailes said that regardless of the original subpoena, the court later made an order in its own language ordering Morris to produce the records.

ATTY. LOCKE became very heated in his argument that "there is nothing before this court."

He said the state contends this hearing is not a new contempt procedure but a continuation of the one which started July 7.

Also, he argued, Morris' testimony before the Grand Jury last Thursday was "only an opportunity for him to purge himself."

Locke pointed out that under law Morris could be held to "appear before the next Grand Jury" to produce evidence.

"I thought he was brought back," Locke said. "But the attorney general said Morris was not brought back before an inquisitorial session of the Grand Jury.

"IF HE IS GUILTY of another contempt, cite him again."

Locke fairly shouted "He (Morris) was there for nothing but the fantastic purpose of the attorney general."

"Why did they have him down there (before the Grand Jury last Thursday). I don't know. For publicity? I don't know. To persecute him? I don't know. For blood?

Every time he turns around, there is publicity sought. Paid political advertising should be printed under it."

And again Locke argued "no new things are being considered. There is nothing before us."

Morris' attorney said that the Klan chief has no possible way to purge himself because the records were stolen.

JUDGE BAILES overruled Atty. Locke's motions which argued these points.

1. That no new charge was presented to the Summer Grand Jury.

2. That the Grand Jury testimony read Friday in Judge Bailes' court was testimony not given at a "regular inquisitorial session of the Grand Jury."

3. That Morris objected before the Grand Jury that the subpoena duces tecum was issued by the solicitor, contrary to law.

4. That the Grand Jury testimony was unauthorized and void.

5. That no new charge was made against Morris by the Grand Jury, the solicitor or the attorney general.

6. That the attorney general had no power or right to call Morris before the Grand Jury to purge himself. Locke argued that it was Morris' privilege to purge himself.

* * *

JUDGE BAILES overruled these motions:

Atty. Locke then entered a motion arguing that Morris had already purged himself to the best of his ability.

Atty. Locke argued that since Morris' house was burglarized "he hasn't got the roster or list of the Federated Ku Klux Klan under his control."

The attorney argued that it is now impossible for Morris to perform the conditions of the court's order.

Grand Jurors Indict Pastor

Three Counts Name Floggings, Masking

News
Bess. 7-23-49

Three indictments on charges of flogging while masked and one for first degree burglary have been returned against R. C. Lyons, an unordained Holiness preacher of Graysville.

A Grand Jury called into special session yesterday found the four true bills and recessed at 5 p.m.

Lyons was placed in County Jail on a burglary charge last Tuesday. He was arrested after a flogging victim, Jack Alexander, had identified Lyons as a member of a mob which flogged him.

Birmingham

THE VICTIM said he could see the face of a man who held him shortly before the lash fell. He said that man was Lyons, and that he was unmasked.

Alexander swore out a warrant against Lyons after he saw the part-time preacher on the streets of Graysville last Sunday.

Lyons has denied that he is a member of the Ku Klux Klan or that he has ever taken part in any flogging.

Lyons was released on a tota lof $4,000 bond this morning. A bond of $2,500 was set for the burglary charge, and $500 apiece for each of the flogging indictments.

The Grand Jury asked to be recessed until Aug. 29, "if not called back into special session sooner."

The body had been in recess one week before it was reconvened.

* * *

CIRCUIT JUDGE GEORGE LEWIS BAILES, who received the partial report, again refused a request by the Grand Jury foreman to "screen each member" to determine if he is qualified for jury service.

He said this should be done to stop criticism that has come to the Grand Jury since it was disclosed some of its members had criminal or misdemeanor records.

Judge Bailes said it would "be an illegal thing" for him to attempt to requalify the jury.

He advised members of the body not to be upset by "irresponsible yammering."

The report said the jury has before it a case of the State of Alabama against the Federated Ku Klux Klan.

There has not been sufficient evidence produced in this investigation on which to base an indictment, the report continued. The Grand Jury still has the case before it, the foreman told the court.

Lyons is the 18th man to be indicted since the probe began of hooded floggings in Jefferson County. There has been a total of 19 indictments.

Matter Already Decided By High Court, Says King

Klan Boss' Lawyer Says Decision Took His Breath Away

News
Bess. 7-23-49

William Hugh Morris today lost his bid for freedom when Circuit Judge Alta L. King ruled that the court here had no further jurisdiction over a matter already decided by the Alabama Supreme Court.

In a 20-minute hearing, Atty. Hugh Locke asked the court to modify a decree of July 7 in which Morris was adjudged in contempt of court for failing to produce Klan records before a Grand Jury.

* * *

ATTY. GEN. ALBERT CARMICHAEL and Asst. Atty. Gen. James Hardin, made a motion for the court to dismiss Locke's petition.

The state pointed out that the matter had already been decided by the Alabama Supreme Court.

Locke's new motion was based upon the fact that Morris can no longer produce the Klan records asked for.

Morris' home in Mt. Olive was entered this week and Morris contends the records were stolen.

Judge King said, "I don't see how this court on this petition can go into the matter of stolen records."

Birmingham

He said he thought the matter might well have been raised before the Supreme Court.

"When the Supreme Court took jurisdiction of this matter," he said, "this court lost jurisdiction."

* * *

JUDGE KING SAID the matter of stolen records might be raised before this court in some other proceedings.

"The Supreme Court wouldn't let a decision of this court stand two minutes," he said, "on a matter already adjudged by that court."

After Judge King pronounced his decision, the Judge addressed Morris.

"I feel in sympathy with your stand," he said. "Anyone who does what he thinks is right has to be admired. But it has no bearing on this matter."

Before the hearing, opened, some 15 to 20 Klansmen pressed forward in the courtroom to shake Morris' hand.

Twenty minutes after court was adjourned a number of Klansmen milled about the courtroom.

Atty. Locke said he has not decided what his next legal move will be in the fight to free Morris.

The lawyer said: "My breath was completely taken away by the court's decision."

MORRIS SAID the Klan records definitely were stolen from his home.

The Klan leader was taken from the County Jail this morning, by Robert Lindbergh, chief clerk in the sheriff's office to the home.

Mrs. Morris accompanied her husband and Deputy Lindbergh.

Morris and the deputy entered the back door of the house, followed by newsmen.

The Klan leader first looked in his ice box:

"My beer's gone," he grinned.

"No," said Mrs. Morris, "I gave that away."

The Klansman looked around, went into a storage room at the rear of the house.

"They are gone," he said.

Morris said three metal filing cases containing the Klan records

were taken from the back room.

The Klansman then went into the living room—where pillows were strewn over the room and furniture was displaced.

He looked in an open drawer.

"Yes, the index is gone, too," he said.

Morris said he kept the card index to the Klan records in a bureau drawer, and the complete records in the missing filing cabinets.

The Klan leader said the filing cases were purchased at an Army surplus sale.

MORRIS SAID the records had been kept in "great detail."

"We had the names, addresses, occupations and affiliations of every member," he said.

Morris and Deputy Lindbergh stood looking at the ransacked rooms for a few minutes, then Lindbergh looked at his watch.

"We're due back before 10 o'clock," he said. The small group got back in the automobile and Morris was returned to the jail, until he was brought to Judge King's courtroom for the hearing.

Morris and Lindbergh speculated as to whether the files were taken in an automobile or a truck.

The Klan leader said he thought the cabinets would go in an automobile.

A Long Fight Ahead

The current investigation into flogging activities in and around Birmingham has uncovered many surprising things. It has also uncovered a number of high ranking personalities, whose names have provided a shock to the sense of decent Americans.

Of one thing we may be certain, the investigation has not so much as scratched the surface. Thus far we have been startled to learn from the likes of a member of the Grand Jury making the probe that "I'll have to admit that I belong to the Klan." Last week the name of a minister was mentioned as a Klan member. And a football coach has also been identified in connection with flogging charges.

Another important lesson all of us can obtain from the investigation is that the Klan has no intention of giving up its campaign of terror and intimidation. Witness the meeting of Klansmen in an Alabama City Hall Saturday night; witness too, the announcement from the Klan Secretary who promises to extend the Klan on a nationwide scale and threatens to vote in a bloc, 100,000 Klansmen in future elections. "I hope that instead of so many good men running for governor at least one good man will turn up for attorney general."

All power to the Grand Jury and the attorney general who are seeking to uproot the Klan. They are working thorough but it will remain for them a long and arduous task of routing the Klan completely out of the State unless the Legislature gets behind the proposal to revoke their charter. The fact that some are beginning to resort to the cheap excuse that Klan records might be stolen is proof that they won't easily submit to investigation.

NO MARTYR—Mrs. William Hugh Morris (left) reads a letter from her jailed Klan-leader husband in which he said he had "no desire to be a martyr." At right is Dr. Lycurgus Spinks, speaker at the pro-Klan meeting in Tarrant City last night.

KKK President Quits In Row With Jailed Klan Director

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., July 21—(AP)—The ranking Alabama Ku Klux Klan leader quit today as a grand jury prepared to take new evidence in the state's war on masked mobsters.

The home of another Klan leader, now in jail for refusing to produce KKK records, was ransacked during the night and some papers stolen. Whether the Klan records were taken was not immediately known.

Dr. E. P. Pruitt, 72-year-old Birmingham physician, resigned as president of the Federated Ku Klux Klans, Inc., after a row with William Hugh Morris, KKK director.

Differs With Some

"I differ with some of the elements that have wormed their way into the Klan—men who used Klan robes to go out and whip people," Dr. Pruitt said.

The grand jury meets in special session Friday. Seventeen persons were indicted for mob violence by a previous grand jury.

Morris' home in the Mt. Olive community, 15 miles north of here, was found in great disorder today by Mrs. Morris, who had spent the night elsewhere.

Morris, in jail since July 7 on a contempt citation for refusing to give the records to a grand jury, said his KKK papers were there and may have been stolen.

"How can I ever get out of jail if the records are stolen?" he asked.

Motion Filed

Hugh Locke, attorney for the Klan director, filed a motion today, however, seeking Morris' freedom.

The petition was set for hearing Friday. It asks that Morris be released from jail on bond guaranteeing "his appearance before any subsequent grand jury."

Dr. Pruitt and Morris, who have differed before, split this time over when the physician resigned.

Morris told newsmen he had been head of the white-sheeted order since June 14. He announced Dr. Pruitt's resignation more than 12 hours before the physician was ready to say he had quit.

TARRANT, ALA., July 21—(AP)—Tarrant Mayor Felix Erwin said today the Ku Klux Klan has been given permission to hold an open meeting in the city hall Friday night.

The mayor said use of the hall was requested by a man who identified himself as Jack Smith, a member of the Klan. He quoted Smith as saying the meeting "is to air some of the conditions" surrounding recent mob violence in the county.

Law 'Blundering' Aided Robed Mobs, Says Legion

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., July 21—(AP)—The "blundering" of law enforcement agencies was partly responsible for masked mob violence in this area, the Jefferson County American Legion Council charged today.

The council, speaking for all Legion posts in the county, said the "blundering" was manifested in a failure to function "in the prosecution of hooded violence."

This failure, the statement continued, "gives substantiation to the charges of these very same mobs that they act because the constituted forces of law and order cannot and will not function."

Alabama Senate Votes Anti-Mask Bill As Angry Veterans Map War on Klan

Atlanta Constitution – Atlanta Ga.

Sat. 6-18-49

BIMINGHAM, Ala. — (UP) — The Alabama Senate, on an urgent demand by Gov. James E. Folsom, passed a bill forbidding the wearing of masks yesterday as public indignation mounted over hooded outrages in the Birmingham area.

The Legislature acted quickly after angered veterans groups, stirred over the flogging of a former sailor, moved to form their own "committee against crime and violence" in the absence of adequate laws to deal with the hooded terror.

Folsom's appeal was carried out at the cost of an administration

Georgia Baptist Training Union Assembly condemns police action by hooded groups. Page 9.

defeat in the State Senate at Montgomery. His backers had to drop a filibuster against economy bills aimed at the Governor and allow their passage so that the anti-mask bill could be brought to the top.

The Senate passed the bill, prohibiting public masking except by children at Halloween and carnival revelers in Mobile, by a 23 to three vote. It goes to the House which is in recess and cannot complete action on the measure before it reconvenes Tuesday.

Folsom also notified Atty. Gen. A. A. Carmichael's office to revoke the charters of any organizations in Alabama whose ritual involved public masking. He said "certain hooded organizations, by whatever name known, have committed unlawful acts of violence and intimidation against citizens of this State."

"Inasmuch as there are several factions of such organizations through the State, each of which denied any knowledge or of participations in such unlawful acts ... I ask the Attorney General to begin legal action to revoke the charters immediately," the Governor's note said.

He attached the articles of incorporation of one such organization, but its name was not revealed by the Governor's office in Montgomery. His message presumably referred to the Alabama Ku Klux Klan Federation as well as several offshoots of the old Klan which are reported chartered in this State.

In order to get the anti-masking bill upon front, Folsom's lieutenants had to cut off their delaying tactics against 24 bills ahead of it. The economy bloc had the voting strength to enact all of its measures until, with four more bills still to go, the unmasking measure was brought to the top by special order.

The General Gorgas Post of the Legion gathered at a special meeting yesterday afternoon to discuss "ways to stop mob violence."

The Legion "decided to come in when a Navy veteran was kidnaped and whipped," a spokesman said. "A call will be made for all veterans' organizations to team up to fight hooded gangs."

B. G. Stovall, the Navy veteran who was lashed with a leather belt Tuesday night, said that a friend who claimed to represent 100 ex-servicemen offered to "use Klan tactics to punish the men who whipped you."

Another friend "gave me a 14-gauge shotgun and told me he would give me $100 for every hooded man I killed who entered my home forcibly," Stovall said.

The temper of the veterans was such that they were prepared to fight the hooded floggers on their own if police lack the manpower and legal authority to stamp them out.

Pulpit Takes Up Battle On Hooded Gangs

The News – Birmingham, Ala.

Folsom Says Home Is Castle, Defend It Any Way Necessary

The fight against hooded mobsters gathered new strength from the pulpit yesterday.

Birmingham pastors condemned "cowardly" night riders who hide their identity beneath masks. The ministers called on their congregations to battle "misguided groups" who would "destroy the greatest government the world has ever known."

Mon. 6-27-49

A Presbyterian, Baptist and Episcopal minister spoke out vigorously against the hooded order yesterday, typifying the solid front which religious leaders of this district have mounted against those who would take the law into their own hands.

"Man at his best is a revelation of God," said Dr. John N. Lukens, pastor of Independent Presbyterian Church. "In his full manhood, he is both strong and tender.

"At his worst and lowest, man is a craven barbarian, a beast, cowardly while thinking he is strong, gathering courage for his weakness from gangs, hidden identity and arms, bravely to attack a defenseless woman in her home. What a base denial of manhood! How utterly unworthy the name of man.

"This is the nadir of humanity.

"Man's strength is lost when he loses his compassion, his chivalry, his tenderness."

* * *

DR. JOHN H. BUCHANAN, pastor of Southside Baptist Church and a leader in the people's drive to end violence, declared:

"Whenever an individual or group of individuals subscribe to the theory that they have the right to become judge, jury, prosecuting attorney and law enforcement officer, they accept a philosophy of government that is the opposite of our American way of life.

"That philosophy results in anarchy and not government by law and order."

Dr. Buchanan said he was thankful the community has become aroused to the drifting away from orderly government and that sentiment has been mobilized behind law and order.

"We will not permit any misguided groups to destroy the greatest government the world has ever known," Dr. Buchanan continued.

He said Donald Comer, Alabama textile manufacturer, has been named to head the citizens' committee to halt mob violence here.

He descraibed Mr. Comer as a "man who has based his life on the teachings of God."

ACROSS TOWN at the Church of the Advent, the Right Rev. C. C. J. Carpenter, Episcopal bishop of Alabama, urged church members to build Christian public opinion if mob terrorism is to be halted.

Christians must speak out for what is right, he declared. They cannot condone mob violence.

The bishop's talk was cut off Radio Station WAFM at noon yesterday as the station joined the Columbia Broadcasting System. Burt McKee, production manager for the station, expressed "profound regret" at the incident. He said it was the policy of WAFM and WAPI never to censor or interrupt a religious program. He said the church has always cooperated in arranging its Sunday services so they conclude at noon when WAFM joins CBS.

GOV. JAMES E. FOLSOM spoke over WAPI yesterday, jabbing at "hooded thugs who have been trying to take justice into their own hands."

"These would-be Hitlers have prowled the streets at night, burning their crosses of hate and frightening innocent women and children and beating up veterans, workers," the governor said.

He said some men went to Montgomery last week to ask the Legislature not to bar the mask.

"The stamp of dishonor is upon the Klan," the governor said. "There is no rhyme or reason for their existence today," he said. "They won't be tolerated as long as I am governor.

"The sanctity of the home is sacred and we intend to keep it that way. No hooded thugs can put on sheets of terror and molest the people of Alabama. No matter how mean a person may be, he still is entitled to a trial by jury and no mob of thugs is going to take it away from him.

"Your home is your castle. Defend it any way necessary," the governor told his radio audience.

Ban On Hoods May Be Backed By State VFW

Montgomery Advertiser – Montgomery, Ala.

Veterans' Lashing Cited; Folsom Says Klansmen Are 'Hooded Cowards'

Sun. 6-19-49

By JOE AZBELL

The commander of Alabama's Veterans of Foreign Wars, Robert K. Bell, predicts his organization will endorse anti-masking legislation at its current three-day state encampment here.

Bell, of Huntsville, said a resolution will be offered Monday supporting a pending anti-masking bill, aimed at the Ku Klux Klan by Senator Henry Mize, of Tuscaloosa, and already passed by the Senate.

The VFW, Bell said, "does not like the way Klansmen lashed a Birmingham veteran about a week ago."

Termed Cowards

Gov. James E. Folsom described the Klan as a "renegade bunch of hooded cowards" in addressing a joint session of the VFW and its auxiliary at the opening of the 1949 encampment yesterday.

More than 500 VFW and 125 auxiliary delegates were on hand for the opening session, and attendance is expected to soar to 1,200 and 375, respectively, today.

"The Ku Klux Klan has terrorized the deep South too long with their cowardly mob rule," Folsom said. "If we are ever to get ahead in the South, we have to get rid of mob terrorists who thrive on hate and fear."

"As long as I am governor, I will fight with all my power to make certain these mob terrorists don't take the law into their own hands like they did 25 years ago."

Signs boosting candidates for department senior and junior vice-commander went up late yesterday in the Smith-Wynn Post clubrooms and the Jefferson Davis and Whitley Hotels.

McCary and Reese

Candidates for senior vice-commander are Elvin McCary of Anniston, department junior vice-commander, and Warren S. Reese Jr., of Montgomery.

Junior vice-commander candidates include: William T. Manderson, Selma; Richard Owen, Bay Minette; C. T. Daniel, Andalusia; and Earl Heaton, Birmingham. W. D. Partlow, Jr., Tuscaloosa, is unopposed for advancement from senior vice-commander to commander.

The joint sessions yesterday were opened by General Chairman A. J. Lankford, of Montgomery. The invocation was pronounced by Chaplain E. E. Spangenberg. City Commissioner W. A. "Tacky" Gayle welcomed the delegates to Montgomery. Elvin McCary, of Anniston, responded.

Mrs. Amelie A. Kane, of Pittsburgh, Pa., a past national president of the VFW Ladies Auxiliary, reported on national organization's projects.

A barbecue was held at 4 p.m. at the Smith-Wynn Post garden, followed by a social hour for "9 in 49" club members at 7 p.m. at the Whitley Hotel. A dance was held in the Smith-Wynn clubrooms last night.

The Tuscaloosa County High School and the Maxwell Air Force bands presented concerts at the barbecue sessions.

Starnes To Speak

The VFW delegates will hold a business session at 10 a.m. today, when committee reports will be heard. Former Congressman Joe Starnes will be principal speaker.

A memorial service at 3 p.m. at the Jefferson Davis Hotel will highlight the day's activities. Major Ormin F. Brown, of Maxwell Air Force Base, will deliver the memorial address. A social hour is scheduled at 4 p.m., at the Smith-Wynn, clubrooms after which a banquet will be held at the Whitley Hotel. Congressman Carl A. Elliott will be principal speaker.

The Monday sessions will include a business session at 9:30 a.m.; lunch at 12 noon, and nomination and election of officers at 1 p.m. The installation of officers at 3 p.m., will end the convention sessions.

The Ladies Auxiliary sessions today will include a memorial service at 9:30 a.m.; business meeting at 10:30 a.m.; and the department officers and past presidents luncheon at 12:45 p.m. A joint memorial service will be observed at 3 p.m., after which the Gold Star Mothers' Tea will be held. A social hour will be held at 5 p.m., and a banquet at 7:30 p.m.

The Monday sessions include a past president's breakfast at 7:30 a.m.; a business meeting and election of officers at 9 a.m.; and installation of officers at 1 p.m.

The VFW Order of the Cooties convention opened last night at 6:30 p.m., with a business and social session. The group will hold a breakfast meeting at 9 a.m., today, followed by the election and installation of officers at 1 p.m.

Sun. 6-19-49

Hooded Men Threaten to Burn Woman

Daily

Birmingham, Ala., June 11 (AP)—Hooded and robed men last night beat a Birmingham white woman and threatened to burn her at the stake. Another group of 16 carloads of hooded men took charge of a cafe in the nearby town of Brookside and threatened the proprietor. Both communities are in the northwestern part of Jefferson (Birmingham) county.

Mrs. Hugh McDanal, 42, who lives on the Jasper highway about five miles from the Birmingham city limits, said about 20 robed men came to her home about 10 p. m. The woman, who recently underwent an operation for a brain hemorrhage, said she was struck twice on the head. Her husband was away from home.

"We Want You"

Mrs. McDanal said she was talking to a friend on the telephone when she heard a knock at the door. She looked out and two men armed with pistols told her: "We want you." She grabbed a shotgun but dropped the shells as she was trying to load it. Meanwhile, a group of men entered the house. Mrs. McDanal said one hit her on the head and another grabbed the shotgun.

At that point, she jumped from one man to the next and lifted the hoods of four of them. "We could kill you for that," she quoted them as saying. Mrs. McDanal told reporters she thought she could identify several of the men.

Speaks Of Grudge

She said she thought the incident "may have been the result of a grudge by one neighbor." Mrs. McDanal said she asked the men: "What's this all about?" "You're going with us," one answered. "We're going to burn you on a stake."

She was dragged out of the house onto the lawn, where a 6 foot cross was burning. The men said the neighbors had complained that the McDanal home was being used to "bring men and women together, and also to sell whisky." Mrs. McDanal denied the accusation. She said the men finally left without further harm to her.

In the other incident, about 16 carloads of hooded men drove into Brookside and entered the Marshlar cafe between 9 and 9:30 p. m. The men took Steve Marshlar, the proprietor, into the rear, cursed and threatened him, and wrecked the back steps. A Brookside police officer looked on but made no move to stop the hooded men, witnesses said.

ALABAMANS ACT TO END KLAN IN

'OUR OWN WAY'

Plan Committee of 15 for Action

BY PAUL HOLMES

(Chicago Tribune Press Service)

Birmingham, Ala., June 23—Five men will meet here tomorrow morning to select a permanent committee of 15 to work for dissolution of the Ku Klux Klan in Alabama. The five who are to do the selecting were designated yesterday at a citizens' meeting in the Jefferson county courthouse called by Dr. John Buchanan, pastor of the Southside Baptist church of Birmingham.

About 250 persons attended the meeting, the announced purpose of which was to devise means of combating the current wave of lawlessness by robed and hooded men. Those in attendance included representatives of 79 civic, fraternal, patriotic and labor organizations.

Decide Klan Must Go

Unanimous sentiment was expressed by those present that the klan must go, altho no concrete plan for steps to get rid of it was proposed. The group voted confidence "in the ability of the law enforcement agencies to cope with the situation" and applauded vigorously when a spokesman for a veterans' organization said he had sent wires to Washington asking that the proposed congressional investigation of local night riding be called off.

"Alabama can clean up this situation without help from the outside," Carle K. Wells, chairman of the organized veterans' committee against crime and violence, told the meeting. He offered co-operation from his group to the proposed permanent citizens' committee.

After Dr. Buchanan started the meeting off with an assertion it has become necessary for citizens here to become vocal behind law and order, he turned the gavel over to John P. Newsome, a former congressman. Oratory for the occasion was supplied by John Temple Graves, a local newspaper columnist, who made the only formal address.

He Paraphrases Cato

Graves made a plea for gentleness in dealing with the klan. Paraphrasing Cato, the Roman senator, who demanded "Carthage must be destroyed," Graves said the time has come when the Ku Klux Klan must be dissolved, but urged his hearers to speak the phrase gently out of deference to "noble names" in the history of the klan in the south.

"We must remember that in the 1870s, the klan served us as no other organization could," he said, adding that many good citizens also belonged to the klan when it was revived in the 1920s. "The truth is we do not need this organization now. Even if the klan is guiltless, it is linked with a tradition of violence and lawlessness. The south cannot exist with the Ku Klux Klan."

Churchmen Name Committee

Three churchmen selected the five man committee which will nominate a permanent committee of 15. They were the Rt. Rev. Charles C. J. Carpenter, Episcopal bishop of Alabama; Bishop Clare Purcell of the North Alabama Conference of the Methodist church, and Dr. John L. Slaughter, president of the Alabama Baptist church convention. They named:

Thomas W. Martin, president of the Alabama Power company; Lawson Gambill, real estate man; Frank Yeilding Jr., head of a building and loan company; William Mitch, president of district 20, United Mine Workers' union, and Dr. Buchanan.

Appointment of these men was confirmed by a unanimous vote. Martin summoned them to their first session in his office at 10 a. m. tomorrow.

While the citizens' committee was in session, County Solicitor Emmett Perry was busy in the grand jury room interviewing victims and witnesses of recent floggings.

He is getting evidence for presentation to the county grand jury, he said, and expects to ask that the grand jury be recalled as soon as he has the evidence in shape. He is being assisted by eight agents of the state highway patrol sent here at his request by Gov. Folsom.

Ala. High Court Okeys Contempt Ruling Of Klan

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — (INS) — The Ku Klux Klans of Alabama have been handed "a blow in the solar plexus."

That's how Alabama Atty. Gen. A. Carmichael described today's Alabama Supreme court decision sustaining the Jefferson county special grand jury and circuit court in holding Klan director William Hugh Morris of Birmingham in contempt.

Morris was jailed for failing to produce Klan records for the investigating jury.

In referring to the decision, Carmichael declared the fight against the Alabama Ku Klux Klan has just begun. He added:

"We shall strike the bunch of bums on all fronts and we shall strike again and again. It is a fight to the finish, no holds barred."

The high court, meanwhile, held that Klan records sought are jury material and Morris will have to produce them. He has been behind bars in Birmingham jail since a week ago Thursday.

"Little Bad Boys" Of The Klan.

Reading the almost daily reports of Klan depredations, we can't avoid wondering about that Alabama Journal editorial last Feb. 28 which pooh-poohed the need for a law against masked gangs and said—

"Today's mild revival here and there of Ku Kluxism is a pale and barren imitation of the real thing. Its teeth have been pulled, its claws clipped, there is no more life in it... So far the antics of these modern Kluxers have been about on a par with little boys who put on masks at Halloween time and not quite up to the badness of larger boys who indulge in more robust Halloween devilment."

There are several people in Jefferson County today who can vouch that Klanism is somewhat different from "Halloween Pranks."

A law is needed now as it was last February, and fortunately it appears that the Legislature may give us one.

Sheriff McDowell's Klan Problem

It's about time Sheriff Holt McDowell of Jefferson County did something to indicate real concern over the Ku Klux Klan outrages.

Every time some woman, or working man, or veteran gets the lash from the hooded heroes, Sheriff McDowell promises to "investigate" but this far nothing has resulted from these "investigations."

Instead, one of the Sheriff's deputies has been found by State men on his post guarding a Klan meeting.

The State officers said the deputy remarked, when he was approached, that "if this was county officers this would be a different story."

It's about time Sheriff McDowell showed more obvious interest in law enforcement. Somebody might get the idea that the Klan and the law are the same in Jefferson County.

Pulpit Echoes

By The Rev. A. S. Turnipseed

Floggings and Judgment

Recent floggings and cross burnings in Alabama are evidences of the deep instinct in man to judge his fellows. Civilization is advanced to the extent that this human disposition is transferred to courts and impartial judicial procedures.

It might be possible that the people mistreated by the hooded mobs deserved what they received. Also it could be true that the floggers themselves deserve to be flogged. These questions of guilt and punishment are not for this column to decide. However, as one reads the news accounts of the alleged mistreatment by hooded men of a widow at Dora, Alabama, he is reminded of John 8:1-11.

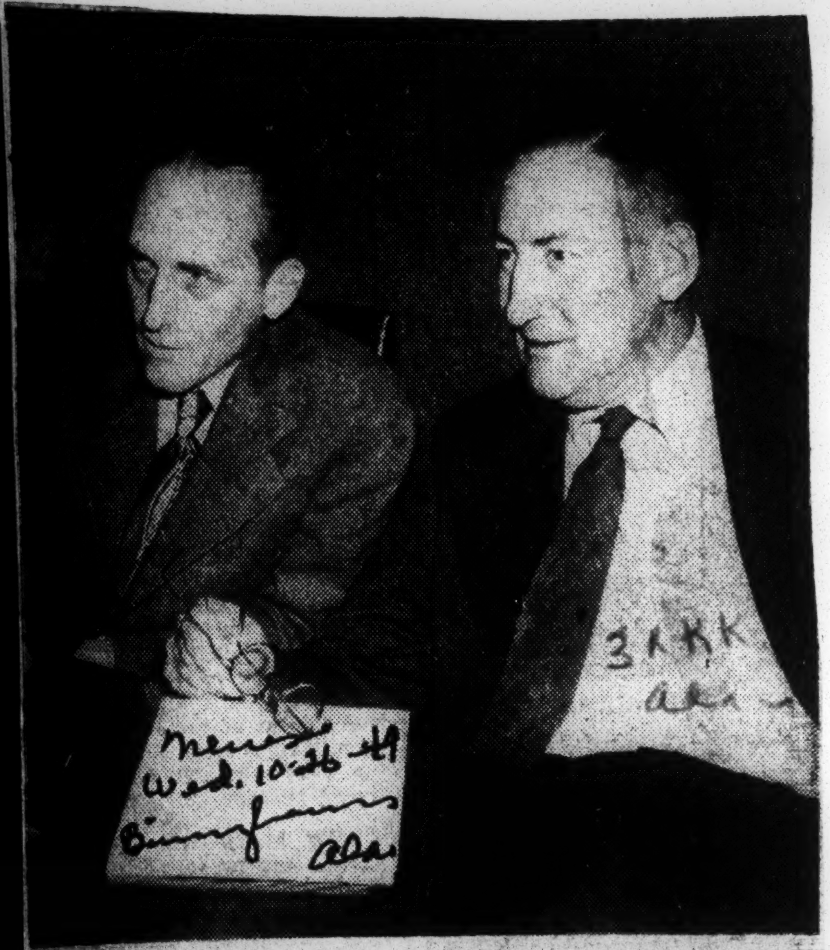
The woman at Dora was accused of the same kind of offense that was laid to the charge of the woman whom the Scribes and Pharisees brought to Jesus. These self-righteous judges of evil were ready to stone this woman. When they pressed Jesus as to what should be done to the woman he "stooped down, and with his finger wrote on the ground, as though He heard them not."

He Without Sin

The men were insistent that Jesus state himself in this case. At last he said, "He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her." Having said this, "again he stooped down, and wrote on the ground." Tradition holds that the second time he wrote various accusations in the sand — hypocrisy, deceitfulness, dishonesty, greediness, selfishness. These accusations were held to have applied to the woman's accusers.

At any rate the men who heard what Jesus said "being convicted by their own conscience, went out one by one, beginning at the eldest, even unto the last."

Jesus was left alone with the woman and asked her, "Woman, where are those thine accusers? hath no man condemned thee?"



THE PROSECUTORS—Deputy Solicitor Cecil Deason (left) will prosecute the flogging cases in Circuit Judge Robert J. Wheeler's court. Solicitor Emmett Perry, right, led the Grand Jury investigations which brought a total of 49 indictments against 18 persons on flogging and related charges.

Woman Identifies Lollar As One Of Masked Floggers

First Defendant At Violence Trial Pleads Not Guilty

Mrs. Hugh McDanal, 42-year-old matron, was the first witness called today in the trial of Coleman (Brownie) Lollar on a charge of flogging while masked.

Lollar's attorney, George Rogers, entered a plea of "not guilty."

Mrs. McDanal, who told the jury she has moved since a hooded mob raided her home in Westwood on June 10, declared she recognized Lollar as one of "10 or 12" masked men who entered her home that night.

* * *

SHE SAID she never had seen Lollar before but that he was "one of the men" whose hoods she lifted when they entered her home.

Mrs. McDanal said she now lives at 6209 First Court, North. She told the court that she was struck with "I don't know what" when the men came into her home.

"They all had pistols," she continued." Altogether there were about 100 of them. . . . They had emblems on their (white) robes like filling station attendants have."

She added that "they threatened me" and that they "accused me of selling whisky and renting my rooms."

The woman said that some of the men came into "my bedroom and grabbed me and wrestled with me for a shotgun I had."

She charged the men dragged her into her front yard where they made her watch a cross burn.

"The road was filled with cars and white-hooded men," she said.

Mrs. McDanal also told the court the men who entered her home did it forcibly, breaking the glass in the door and smashing its lock.

* * *

DIRECT QUESTIONING lasted only a few minutes. Judge Robert J. Wheeler then recessed court for a few minutes before cross examination.

This morning's action was marked by a series of clashes between Deputy Solicitor Cecil Deason and Defense Atty. Rogers.

Rogers, flourishing a picture of a nude woman, tried to introduce it into evidence as an item carried by Mrs. McDanal to her front yard when the masked and robed men invaded her home.

* * *

THE JUDGE RULED the picture was not admissable.

Judge Wheeler was forced time and again to sustain objections to Roger's line of questioning.

Mrs. McDanal, in answer to one of the attorney's questions, denied she told the hooded and robed men she danced in the nude for high school boys.

"That's what they said about me out there," Mrs. McDanal said.

Deason asked Judge Wheeler to admonish Rogers for his questioning in the face of the judge's rulings. Judge Wheeler reminded the jury Lollar was on trial and not Mrs. McDanal.

When he finished, Rogers asked for a mistrial on the grounds statements made before the jury by the judge and deputy solicitor were so "prejudicial" the defendant could not get a fair trial.

The judge overruled the motion.

Indications are the flogging trials will last over a long period. Circuit Judge Wheeler's courtroom was packed with spectators.

Approximately 100 witnesses were waiting to be called. They spilled out of witness rooms into the corridors.

Lollar is the first of 18 men indicted on charges growing out of activities of white robed and hooded mobs here.

Until the hearing started, there had been no announcement as to which of nine men charged with flogging would be tried first.

Selection of a jury began before Judge Wheeler, who last July jailed Ku Klux Klan Leader William Hugh Morris for contempt on his failure to produce the order's secret records for a Grand Jury investigation.

Forty veniremen were assembled in the courthouse as selection of a jury for the trials started.

* * *

DEPUTY SOLICITOR Deason, the prosecutor, indicated that he will attempt to keep off the jury any man who has had connection with the Ku Klux Klan.

One Negro was in the group of venire men.

Solicitor Deason got only laughs when he asked the group if "any of you have read or heard of masked floggings in Jefferson County?"

He asked: "Are any of you now or have you ever been a member of the organization known as the Federated Ku Klux Klan?"

One man, R. E. Turbeville, answered: "I have been. But that was 15 years ago."

Then Deason asked: "Have any of you ever been a member of an organization with Klan in its title?"

Venireman Otis S. Robinson said he had joined in 1922 and quit after two meetings. And Clarence O. Thornsberry also replied that he had been in as a member in the '20s, but quit after about three years.

* * *

ONLY ONE MAN was disqualified. He was rejected when he told Deason that he already had formed his opinion about the terrorism.

Rogers asked only one major question. He wanted to know "if you feel you can try this case on the evidence to be presented and not on what you have read in the newspapers."

There were no negative answers.

THE 12 MEN CHOSEN for the jury are:

Bryan R. Forman, policeman; Burnell E. Abel, repairman; Vernon C. Green, inspector; William N. Hadden, foreman; Thomas W. Hallmark, electrician; Merrill C. Hamlet, manager; Ray Rufus Little, storekeeper; Garner C. Reeves, apprentice; S. L. Springer, foreman; Charles T. Stephens, teletype operator; Russell B. Watkins, shipping clerk, and Alto Lee Williams, rail mill man.

The Negro venireman, Fred Cockrenn, Fairfield trainman, was among the first qualified, but was one of the first struck by the state.

Flogging while masked is a felony under Alabama law and is punishable by a term of from one to four years in prison. In Alabama courts, the jury fixes the length of the sentence.

Lollar first entered the mob investigations last July 17, when state investigators reported they found him guarding automobiles outside a Ku Klux Klan meeting at Adamsville.

LOLLAR, A COAL MINE operator, gave up a commission as special deputy sheriff next day.

Lollar has repeatedly denied to reporters that he is a member of the Klan or has ever been a member.

He said he was merely being paid to guard the cars on the night of June 17. He added that he had been employed the same way before.

Lollar, however, has been named by Atty. Gen. Albert A. Carmichael as a member of the Stonewall Jackson Klavern of the Ku Klux Klan at Adamsville.

* * *

EIGHT OTHER DEFENDANTS' cases set for today were passed. In addition, nine defendants are facing trial, probably in December.

Fights, Threats, Violence Color Flogging Trial

Judge Orders Guns Surrendered; News Photogs Warned

A demand all armed spectators at the flogging trial of Coleman A. (Brownie) Lollar surrender their guns, was made at the opening of court today.

The announcement was made to the crowd by Chief Deputy Wilton Hogan after Circuit Judge Robert J. Wheeler had ordered the crowd be canvassed for weapons. None was surrendered.

At least one of the armed men, M. V. Weaver, is an admitted Klansman. He identified himself as an official of the Robert E. Lee Klavern of Federated Ku Klux Klans, Incorporated.

Weaver said his gun was a .44. He also said he retained the gun yesterday when officers checked to see if he had a permit to carry it. He declared the officers did not take it from him.

This incident yesterday and reports other spectators were armed, brought the "no gun" order from Circuit Judge Robert J. Wheeler.

Sheriff Holt McDowell today revoked Weaver's permit to carry a pistol. The sheriff said Weaver was a laborer for Goslin-Birmingham Manufacturing Company.

The crowd this morning was orderly under the watchful eyes of uniformed highway patrolmen and a reinforced contingent of sheriff's deputies.

The calm that has prevailed since court convened at 2 p.m. yesterday was in marked contrast to the tense situation which developed among spectators at the morning session of court yesterday.

Before the noon recess, nearfights had developed in the halls outside Circuit Judge Robert J. Wheeler's courtroom on at least three occasions.

The incidents were started when Sexton, a part-time Baptist [illegible], slapped a woman witness in a hallway a moment after he had been excluded from the courtroom.

Sexton was pointed out by Sally Burton, 17, as one of a masked mob which snatched her, her mother, sister and three men from their homes on the night of June 3, and flogged them.

The girl walked from the witness stand, pushed her way through a crowd of spectators in the aisle and put her finger on Sexton.

* * *

SHE SAID HE talked to her on the night of the flogging and was not masked at that time.

Deputy Solicitor Cecil M. Deason asked the court to exclude Sexton from the room to await call as a possible witness.

Obviously angry, Sexton walked from the room.

Outside, witnesses said, he approached Mrs. Irene Burton, another witness and mother of Sally Burton.

Age-Herald Reporter Miles Denham told the court Sexton shook his finger in Mrs. Burton's face. When she pushed his hand away Sexton slapped her. Denham said.

Mrs. Burton told the same story a few minutes later when Sexton was brought before Judge Wheeler and sentenced to 24 hours in jail for direct contempt of court.

Sexton began crying and berating the witness who had pointed him out. He protested the sentence and asked Judge Wheeler "can you convict a man on the testimony of a woman that I know what kind of a life she has lived?"

JUDGE WHEELER told him "I have sentenced you. Sit down."

A few moments later Sexton was again called before the judge and the sentence revoked after he had sobbed out an apology.

Shortly after the slapping incident, Sexton threatened Associated Press Photographer Rudy Fairchild. Sexton said he would "stomp him into the floor," and threatened to break his camera.

The photographer had made no attempt at that time to photograph Sexton.

As court recessed for noon, an angry crowd outside the courtroom gathered around Bob Gunthrop, photographer for The News-Age-Herald. One man snatched a filmholder from the photographer. The man identified himself as an employe of Sears, Roebuck & Company. He said he would "lose my job if my name gets mixed up in this."

He claimed the photographer had inadvertently snapped his picture.

The developed film did not show the man.

Another man told Gunthrop he would "follow you to the ends of the earth to get you" if the picture was used.

DEPUTY SHERIFF O. E. Kinney walked up at this point and threatened to put the photographer "and the whole crowd in jail" if the group didn't disperse.

Judge Wheeler and Solicitor Emmett Perry asked the sheriff's office for additional men in the halls to prevent trouble. Several uniformed highway patrolmen were also ordered to police the halls and keep them clear.

Later, Judge Wheeler ordered Chief Deputy Wilton Hogan to take up any firearms found on any of the spectators "whether they have permits or not."

Perry said he would ask the sheriff's office to revoke Weaver's permit to carry a gun. He said he would recommend any spectators found carrying guns in the building during the trials lose their permits.

OGGING DEFENDANT SAYS HE WAS IN KLAN

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., Oct. 28 (AP)—Coleman A. (Brownie) Lollar today admitted for the first time that he was a former Ku Klux Klansman. But he contended he was not a flogger and never had been one.

New York ... Post. 10-29-49

The 35-year-old former special deputy entered a denial from the stand to a charge of flogging while masked.

He is the first of eighteen men arrested to face trial on charges arising from a wave of night-riding activities of hooded and robed men here last spring.

Lollar testified almost two hours. The defense then rested and the state began calling rebuttal witnesses.

Mrs. Hugh McDanal, 42-year-old grandmother, has identified Lollar as one of her attackers the night of June 10.

Lollar testified he had never seen Mrs. McDanal before she entered the court room at the start of his trial.

He said he went to a baseball game the night of the raid on the McDanal home. Three of his neighbors testified they accompanied him to the game.

Lollar admitted he was a former member of the Robert E. Lee Klan Klavern in Birmingham. He said he permitted his membership to lapse last June 30 by failing to pay dues.

He had told reporters previously that he had never belonged to the Klan.

He testified he had never belonged to the Stonewall Jackson Klavern in Adamsville. Two Klansmen told the court previously that the McDanal raid followed a meeting of the Adamsville Klavern.

It was at Adamsville, also, that Lollar was found by state officers June 17 guarding automobiles outside a Klan meeting place. Lollar said he was merely paid to watch the cars there but never entered a meeting.

KLANSMAN ACCUSES KLAN IN FLOGGING

New York Times

Alabama's Hooded-Mob Trials Begin With Former Deputy as First Defendant

Times 10-27-49

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., Oct. 26 (UP)—A Ku Klux Klansman testified at the opening of the Alabama flogging trials today that the Klan carried out a hooded raid against a 42-year-old grandmother last June 10.

It was the first positive linking of the Klan with the series of summer mob outbreaks which so aroused the state that the Legislature passed an anti-masking law.

The witness was Boyd Killingsworth, who admitted he was a member of the raiding party that descended on the rural home of Mrs. Hugh McDanal, but he denied that he earlier identified Coleman E. (Brownie) Lollar, the first of eighteen defendants, as being present.

Lollar, a former special deputy, is on trial charged with flogging while masked. He also faces charges of flogging three other persons and with first-degree burglary, a capital offense in Alabama.

Killingsworth said that he went to a "Klan meeting at Adamsville, west of Birmingham, that night and later "we stopped by the highway and robed up." About thirty cars with two or three men in each car first burned a cross in front of a cafe, then went to the McDanal house," he said.

"I helped to direct traffic," Killingsworth said. "I heard a little of the noise of them getting into the house."

Mrs. McDanal, Gaunt rural resident earlier had testified that about "100 men with their faces in hoods", led by Lollar, forcibly entered her home and dragged her out.

Killingsworth testified that he saw his Klan companions burn a cross "while the woman was standing by." He said Richard Loller, brother of Brownie Lollar, presided over the Adamsville Klan meeting that preceded the raid in his capacity as exalted cyclops of the local chapter.

The defense attempted to attack Mrs. McDanal's character by waving a photograph which it said was a picture of her posing nude in a cornfield. Judge Robert J. Wheeler angrily ruled it irrelevant.

Both Killingsworth and Felix Lee (Pete) Houghton, who followed him to the stand and gave similar testimony, admitted they were Klansmen.

The trial, marking the South's first large-scale prosecution of masked raiders in modern times, opened with Mrs. McDanal identifying Brownie Lollar as a member of the mob that visited her.

She recognized Lollar, she said, because at the time of the raid she had the courage to jerk aside his hood to look at his face. She recognized two other defendants the same way, she said.

Mrs. McDanal said the band that dragged her into her yard to watch a midnight cross-burning accused her of "dancing in the nude" publicly, and of other improper conduct, which she denied.

"Isn't it true that you were run out of Irondale (a community near Birmingham) for displaying your nakedness?" George Rogers, defense attorney, asked Mrs. McDanal on cross-examination.

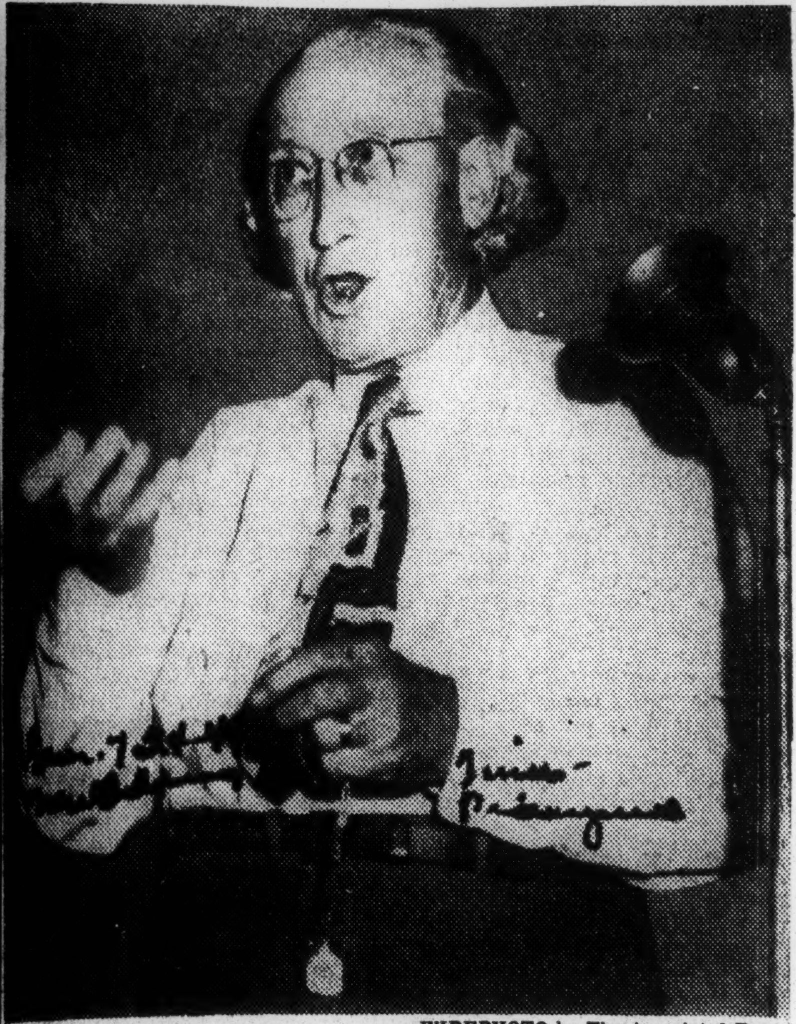
Circuit Judge Robert J. Wheeler sustained an objection to the question and refused to admit as evidence a nude picture that Mr. Rogers suggested was of Mrs. McDanal. She said it wasn't.

Mrs. McDanal was the first witness called after the jury was selected. The veniremen included one Negro but he was not chosen.

Mrs. McDanal said she seized a shotgun as the mob broke through her front door, but the band wrested it from her and dragged her into the yard. She said she was struck twice on the head. She testified she recognized Lollar, Albert Swindle and Roy Landrum, all defendants.

All of the men except one wore white robes with an emblem over the chest, she said. The uniform of the Alabama Ku Klux Klan is a white robe and hood with insignia on the chest.

"They accused me of selling whisky and of renting rooms for misconduct," Mrs. McDanal testified calmly. "They said I had danced in the nude on my porch so that high school students could see me. I hadn't done any of those things."



—WIREPHOTO by The Associated Press.

KLANSMAN AND PROUD OF IT, Dr. Lycurgus Spinks (above) was with William Hugh Morris, director of the Federated Ku Klux Klans, Inc., Saturday when Morris sought release from jail after being sentenced for contempt of court. Spinks, who says he has been a KKK member for 40 years, was a candidate for governor of Mississippi in 1947, but now resides at Thomasville, Ala. In a speech at a public meeting in Tarrant City, near Birmingham, Spinks pledged a Klan war on its political opponents. (Story on Page 2.)

14 Are Arrested In Alabama War On Hooded Mobs

Atlanta, Ga. Constitution Tues. 7-12-49

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—(AP)—Fourteen men were seized yesterday on charges brought by a Grand Jury in a continuing drive against night-riding violence and intimidation in this steel and coal region.

Thirteen were charged with acts of terrorism, including flogging while masked. One, a police chief, was indicted for intimidating a witness and for neglect of duty.

One other warrant were in the hands of Sheriff's Deputies. Two more were delayed by absence of the men indicted.

As Sheriff Holt McDowell's men made the arrests, a new Grand Jury was organized. It was instructed to continue the investigation of floggings, cross burnings and threats.

A high Ku Klux Klan official, William Hugh Morris, remained in jail on a contempt of court sentence.

An attorney sought his release before the State Supreme Court at Montgomery yesterday, and the court set the case down for a full hearing Thursday.

Morris was jailed last Thursday for refusing to bring Klan records before the Grand Jury.

KKK officials have asserted the Klan had nothing to do with masked mobs in this or any other Alabama county. Dr. E. P. Pruitt, President of the Federated Ku Klux Klans, Inc., said he would "banish any Klansman found guilty" of flogging.

Charges brought by the Grand Jury fall chiefly into three groups.

Several men were charged with first degree burglary. That is a felony, punishable by 10 years imprisonment to death. No bond is allowed.

A larger group was charged with flogging while masked, also a felony. It is punishable by imprisonment for a year and a day to 10 years.

Others were charged with boycotting, a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of $100 to $1,000 and imprisonment up to six months. Boycotting covers any unlawful interference with a business.

In addition, Police Chief Elmer Brock, of Brookside, was indicted for intimidation and neglect of duty. Both are misdemeanors, but intimidation is punishable by a fine up to $1,000 and up to one year in jail. Neglect is punishable by a fine only, with $1,000 the maximum.

Brookside was the scene of a raid by masked and hooded men the night of June 10. A restaurant was raided, cleared of occupants and its owner forced to witness the burning of a cross.

Coleman A. (Brownie) Lollar, 35, former Special Deputy Sheriff, was charged with first degree burglary, five counts of flogging while masked and with boycotting.

He surrendered his deputy's commission on June 18, the day after State officers said they found him guarding a meeting of the Adamsville, Ala., Ku Klux Klan.

At that time, Lollar said he was not a member of the Klan.

Ten Accused in Floggings and Intimidation Arrested

One Police Chief Among Those Being Held

Jury Inquiry Tues. 7-12-49

(The Associated Press)

Birmingham, Ala., July 11—Ten arrests were made Monday on charges brought by a grand jury which investigated hooded hoodlums in this area.

Nine were charged with acts of terrorism. One, a police chief, was indicted for intimidating a witness and for neglect of duty.

Five other warrants were in the hands of sheriff's deputies. Two more were delayed by absence of the men.

As Sheriff Holt McDowell's men made the arrests, a new grand jury was organized here. It was instructed to continue the investigation of floggings, cross burnings and threats.

A high Ku Klux Klan official, William Hugh Morris, remained in jail on a contempt of court sentence as the state supreme court at Montgomery considered his case.

An attorney for Morris sought his release Monday, but the court set the case down for a full hearing Thursday at 10 a. m. Morris was sentenced last Thursday for refusing to bring Klan records before the grand jury.

KKK officials have asserted the Klan had nothing to do with masked mobs in this or any other Alabama county. Dr. E. P. Pruitt, president of the Federated Ku Klux Klans, Inc., said Monday he would "banish any Klansman found guilty" of flogging.

Normally, the men arrested Monday would be tried in September.

Charges brought by the grand jury fall chiefly into three groups.

Several men were charged with first degree burglary. That is a felony, punishable by 10 years imprisonment to death. No bond is allowed.

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Coleman A. (Brownie) Lollar, 35, former special deputy sheriff, was charged with first degree burglary, five counts of flogging while masked and with boycotting.

Gives Up Commission

He surrendered his deputy's commission on June 18, the day after state officers said they found him guarding a meeting of the Adamsville, Ala., Ku Klux Klan.

At that time, Lollar said he was not a member of the Klan.

Others arrested included:

Albert Swindle, 32, Praco, charged with first degree burglary and boycotting. No bond allowed.

A. B. Carradine, 39, Quintown, first degree burglary, flogging while masked and boycotting. No bond.

City Employe Held

Roy Landrum, 25, Quintown, first degree burglary, flogging while masked and boycotting. No bond.

Robert E. Chambliss, 45, city of Birmingham garage repairman, flogging while masked, bond $1000.

William A. Byrd, Birmingham, flogging while masked, bond $1000.

Melvin Fields, Birmingham, flogging while masked, bond $1000.

Moody Nations, 44, Flat Creek, three counts, flogging while masked, bond $1000 each.

Richard Lollar, 33, brother of Coleman A. Lollar, flogging while masked, bond $1000 each.

Klan Leader's Plea Turned Down Again

Courier-Journal 7-22-49

MONTGOMERY, Ala.—(AP)—For a second time the State Supreme Court yesterday refused to intervene in the jailing of Alabama Klan chief William Hugh Morris.

The tribunal denied a writ of certiorari sought by Morris, a 44-year-old contractor who has been behind bars in Birmingham for 32 days.

No formal opinion was issued along with the decree, which was signed by all five judges who heard the case Wednesday.

Chief Justice Lucien D. Gardner, who is ill, and Associate Justice A. B. Foster, now on vacation in North Carolina, did not participate.

The Supreme Court turned down a similar petition for Morris July 15 with two justices dissenting. These two, Thomas S. Lawson and J. Ed Livingston, went along with the majority yesterday.

A brief notation was made on the petition giving notice of its denial. The court cited ex parte Wheeler, 231 Ala., 165 Souther. 547, and other cases mentioned therein, as authority for its action.

Klan Leader's Petition Says Records Stolen

Report Made In Move To Free Jailed Official

Courier-Journal Sat. 7-23-49

Birmingham, July 22 (AP)—Secret Ku Klux Klan records, eagerly sought by two grand juries investigating masked mobs, were listed as stolen today in a court petition filed on behalf of a jailed Klan leader.

This report was included in a move to free William Hugh Morris, portly director of the Federated Ku Klux Klan, Inc., from a contempt-of-court citation. The

new plea will be heard tomorrow.

Morris went to jail July 7 when he refused to produce the records for a grand jury. Judge Robert J. Wheeler ordered him to remain in jail until the papers were brought into court.

Home Ransacked Wednesday.

Morris' attorney, Hugh Locke asserted in an amended petition for the Klan leader's release that Morris no longer had the records in question.

The K.K.K. director's home at Mount Olive was ransacked Wednesday night. Morris said today he was "almost certain" the white-robed order's membership rolls and other secret papers were taken by the burglars.

Morris' petition today asserted he did not know where the secret papers were or who took them.

A County grand jury resumed its inquiry into mob violence today. A previous jury returned 17 indictments after a similar investigation.

Klan Chief's Hearing Is Put Off

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—(AP)—Another bid to get Klan Chief William Hugh Morris out of jail was balked, at least temporarily, yesterday.

Judge Robert J. Wheeler, who sent the portly KKK director to jail for contempt of court July 7, declined yesterday to consider before next week a new plea for Morris' release.

The Klan leader was sentenced for refusing to give KKK membership rolls to the Grand Jury.

The jury had sought the white-robed order's secret records in connection with an investigation into a wave of floggings and cross burnings in the district. It later indicted 18 persons on flogging and related charges.

Judge Wheeler yesterday refused to reopen Morris' case until the 44-year-old roofing contractor goes before a special session of the jury next Monday.

A full hearing on Morris' petition for release was set for Tuesday afternoon. Morris' attorneys argued for his immediate freedom, but were overruled.

Approval Given For Klan Meeting

TALLADEGA, ALA., Aug. 15—(AP)— Probate Judge Hardy Riddle said today the Ku Klux Klan has been given an okay to hold a mass meeting at the Talladega County courthouse.

The county commission gave permission after a request by the Rev. Alvin Horne, Talladega Klan leader. Horne said the meeting will be held in the near future.

Judge Riddle said he was told the mass meeting was "to explain to the public the Klan's side of the recent developments involving that organization."

Similar meetings have been held at Tuscaloosa and Tarrant recently.

Klan officials have denied the white-robed order was involved in a wave of floggings and cross burnings in Alabama.

Prosecutor Ex-Kluxer, Says Morris

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—(AP)—Klan Chief William Hugh Morris charged yesterday that Alabama Atty. Gen. Albert A. Carmichael is a former Ku Klux Klan member.

Morris issued a written statement from the County Jail where he was returned.

He was sent back to jail after failing to produce secret Klan records for a Grand Jury investigating hooded terrorism.

Carmichael led in the court fight to return Morris to jail on a contempt of court citation. The portly, 44-year-old contractor served 16 days in jail previously on the citation.

Morris alleged that Carmichael joined the Ku Klux Klan at Brewton, Ala., in the 1920s, and remained a member there for four years.

The Attorney General could not be reached immediately for comment.

His six-page handwritten statement criticized Carmichael and Circuit Solicitor Emmett Perry for their part in investigations of floggings in Jefferson County.

He told a reporter that he also intended to criticize Circuit Judge George Lewis Bailes, by whom he was sent to jail twice.

Morris charged that the investigation had been turned into a "witch hunt" for Klansmen. He said that "of the 18 men indicted, but not as yet convicted, no more than three are Klansmen."

The Klan leader accused Carmichael of using "Peeping Tom tactics" by ordering installation of a dictaphone in the meeting place of the Adamsville, Ala., Klavern of the Klan.

He repeated his court statement that he cannot produce Klan records because they were stolen from his home while he was in jail.

Morris wrote that because of "the fact that I must apparently spend the rest of my life in jail having been determined by three men, I believe a statement on their background and recent activities is in order."

Klan Records Still Secret

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., Aug. 5—(AP)—A Klan leader left unanswered today the question as to whether the rank and file will permit their names to be turned over to their jailed chief, William Hugh Morris.

Morris, their ranking officer, was returned to jail Tuesday for failure to produce the records for a grand jury investigating mob violence here. He previously spent 16 days in a cell under the same contempt of court citation.

He claims the records were stolen from his home and that he can't bring them into court now.

Asked For New List

Morris, 42-year-old roofing contractor, said he asked two exalted cyclops, or heads of local Klaverns to give him new lists of their members.

E. E. Campbell, cyclops of Robert E. Lee Klavern No. 1, declined comment on what action the members of that Klavern had taken. Previously he told reporters the Klavern, biggest in the state, would meet Thursday night and would vote on it.

But Campbell wouldn't say today what the vote had been—or even if the question had been taken up. He told reporters he might have a statement within a few days.

Morris himself issued a statement last night in which he lambasted Atty. Gen. Albert A. Carmichael, Circuit Solicitor Emmett Perry and Judge George Lewis Bailes. Carmichael and Perry presented the case against Morris at the contempt hearing and Judge Bailes returned the verdict.

Carmichael Denies Charge

He accused all three of being former Klansmen themselves. Carmichael immeditely answered that he had never been a member. Perry and Bailes issued statements recently in which they said they belonged in the 1920's but had no connection with it for the past 20 years.

In another development, Klan spokesman Lycurgus Spinks, silver-maned orator of the old school, announced he would address a public gathering at Tuscaloosa Sunday.

Spinks, 64, spoke before a Klan-sponsored meeting at nearby Tarrant July 22. He was a candidate for governor of Mississippi in 1947 but now lives at Thomasville, Ala.

Revocation Of Klan's Charter Asked By 'Committee Of 500'

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., Aug. 11—(AP)—A volunteer citizens committee, shocked by mob violence in this district, today offered a hard-hitting report seeking elimination of the law of the lash.

A major plea was the immediate revoking of the charter of the Alabama Ku Klux Klan. Basically, its report was an appeal to all citizens to "oppose anything that resembles anarchy."

Serves 25th Day

The Klan's chieftain, William Hugh Morris, today served his 25th day in jail for failure to produce the order's secret records for a grand jury investigation. He can be held indefinitely under the contempt of court citation sending him to jail.

The citizens group, the "Committee of 500," was organized here after a wave of floggings and cross burnings.

Its chairman is industrialist Donald Comer, and its membership includes top civic, religious, business, labor, fraternal, and veterans leaders. Their influence is expected to bring about enactment of most of the recommendations made today.

The group's steering committee of 20 made an intensive study of the problem. It met repeatedly with elected officials and law enforcement officers. The 14-page report criticized some of these, praised others for their efforts.

The committee sought to go further than the obvious recommendations for expanded and alerted law enforcement units.

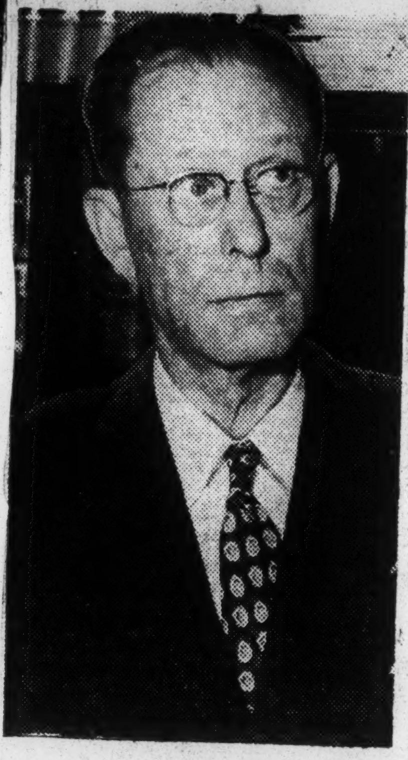
To Teach Children

One phase of the report dealt with a proposed county-wide school program under which pupils would be taught the worth of law and order. Another requested that a day be designated "for all to start a new era of law and order," with ministers preaching on the subject on that date.

The report urged a thorough overhauling of the jury system. It sharply criticized the practice of excusing large numbers from jury duty, and added:

"It is perfectly obvious that there is a deplorable laxness in jury service . . . of men who are competent to serve."

HEAR FLOGGING TESTIMONY—State and defense attorneys, and three men charged with flogging an 18-year-old farm youth, are shown (above) in Fayette County courtroom yesterday listening to the victim testify. Left to right are W. W. Monroe, county solicitor; Curt Espey, Berry taxi driver, who was acquitted; Vick Hudson, and Leon Kimbrell, who were fined $100 and costs, and ... defense attorney.



HE GAVE RULING—Circuit Judge George Lewis Bailes ruled this morning that Alabama's Klan leader must return to jail.

Bailes Declares Klansman Still Is In Contempt

Carmichael, Perry Laud Bailes' Stand As Warning To Others

William Hugh Morris went back to jail today.

Circuit Judge George Lewis Bailes ruled the state Klan chief still in contempt of court for failing to produce Klan records.

They were sought by the Grand Jury.

* * *

JUDGE BAILES ordered that Morris should return to County Jail, declaring that his bond was forfeited.

Shortly after the court convened this morning, in the presence of the Grand Jury, Judge Bailes asked Morris to arise.

"I have one question to ask of the defendant," the Judge said.

Morris, clad in a dark blue suit, obviously nervous under the strain of the long legal fight for his freedom, listened intently when Judge Bailes asked:

"Do you stand able and willing to purge yourself by furnishing the list of the roster of the Federated Ku Klux Klan of Jefferson County?"

Morris cleared his throat as if to answer.

His attorney, Hugh Locke, arose and said:

"Your Honor, may I confer with my client?"

Locke and Morris whispered for a bare few seconds.

Then Morris replied:

"Your Honor, I no longer have the roster. They were stolen. They are not in my possession. I made an attempt to get the information but was not able to get it."

He spoke in a low voice.

* * *

JUDGE BAILES addressed Morris. He said:

"Mr. Morris, if I could, I would help you go about your normal business and other pursuits. But two limitations make this legally impossible.

"First, there's the order of the court of July 7 and then secondly, is your own bond conditioned upon your purging yourself."

Judge Bailes then began reading from the formal court order.

A sheriff's deputy took Morris to the County Jail where he spent 16 days before he was released on a $500 bond. It was conditioned upon his furnishing a Grand Jury with the names of members of the Ku Klux Klan and other information asked by the Grand Jury.

MORRIS' ATTORNEY, Hugh Locke, said the decision will be appealed to the Alabama Supreme Court as soon as possible.

Both Atty. Gen. Albert A. Carmichael and Solicitor Emmett Perry lauded today's decision.

Carmichael said: "The decision of Judge George Lewis Bailes is eminently correct. My office never tried a case before a judge who showed a deeper understanding of the law, the facts and the situation, generally, as did Judge Bailes in this case.

"The decision of Judge Bailes will ever be a warning to those who are inclined to trifle with the powers of our courts.

"The courts of Jefferson County are more powerful than they were before his decision."

Just before Morris was taken to the County Jail his wife came to tell him goodbye. He kissed her and said, "You take care of things."

Morris said: "I have refused up to this time to make any statement setting forth my position because of matters pending in this court.

"In the near future I will give a complete statement to the newspapers of this prosecution or investigation and I hope the newspapers, since they have given such unusual publicity to this case, will do me the justice of giving it to the public."

* * *

SOLICITOR PERRY commented: "The order of Hon. George Lewis Bailes, circuit judge, today remanding William Hugh Morris to the County Jail until he complies with the order of the court and procures the information required, is another step in restoring and upholding the majesty of the law in Jefferson County.

"Local self government will work; it is working in Jefferson County. Our efforts to enforce the law will continue."

After hearing Judge Bailes' decision this morning, the Summer Grand Jury was "recessed subject to instantaneous recall."

It was a different Morris who heard Judge Bailes' decision today. The portly Klan chief appeared tired and drawn.

On July 7, when he first was cited for contempt, he was cocky and full of pep. He said then he would "let the jail rot down around me" but he changed his mind after the alleged theft of Klan records from his home two weeks ago.

Since then, Morris has battled continually to stay out of jail.

* * *

WHEN JUDGE BAILES declared Morris' bond forfeited and remanded him to jail with the privilege to appear before the Grand Jury at any time to purge himself, the status appeared to be:

1. Morris will stay in jail until he is ready to give the evidence asked by the Grand Jury.

2. He cannot be allowed bond because a Grand Jury stands ready to hear him when he makes up his mind to offer the evidence.

* * *

BAIL WAS granted Morris in the first place on the grounds that no Grand Jury was organized to hear him give the evidence and therefore purge himself for his freedom.

There would be no point in allowing Morris bond now except pending such time as a Grand Jury could hear him.

As matters now stand the Summer Grand Jury is in session and would hear the Klan leader any time he expressed the desire to testify before the body.

Defense Atty. Locke said he would appeal to the Alabama Supreme Court at the earliest possible time.

Just what course the defense attorney will take did not appear certain today.

Curbstone legal opinion in Birmingham today was that Morris can gain his freedom only one way—by producing the evidence asked by the Grand Jury.

PASTOR INDICTED IN HOOD BEATINGS

Prayed Just Before Lashing, Says Victim

(Picture on page 1)

(The Associated Press)

Birmingham, Ala., July 23—Alabama's top Klansmen failed again Saturday to win release from jail as a grand jury charged a minister with three masked floggings.

The minister, the Rev. R. C. Lyons, 47, is the 18th man indicted in the state's campaign against hooded lashers. All are out on bond.

William Hugh Morris, heavy-set director of the Federated Ku Klux Klans, Inc., is in jail for contempt. He was sentenced July 7, when he refused to bring klan records before a grand jury.

Saturday, he sought release on the ground that the records have been stolen and he cannot bring them in. Judge Alta L. King dismissed the plea, saying his court had no jurisdiction.

Judge King told Morris, after that decision:

"Mr. Morris, I sympathize with you and I admire a man who stands by what he thinks is right. However, that has no bearing in this case."

Preacher's Bond $4000

Morris' attorney, Hugh Locke, said he would make another attempt before the Alabama supreme court. That body last week denied a review of the Morris contempt case.

The Rev. Mr. Lyons, in jail since Tuesday on a warrant, was charged by one flogging victim with praying over him just before the lash was applied.

Lyons, who took his New Testament into jail with him, told newsmen he had been "preaching about three years." He said he had no regular church, and was a mule-handler at a coal mine on week days.

He was charged with three floggings while masked and one first-degree burglary. Bond for the four cases was fixed at $4000.

Morris came into court Saturday prepared to swear the secret records of the KKK were stolen from his home Wednesday night. He had been taken there by a deputy sheriff just before the court hearing.

KKK Speaker Threatens

He told newsmen three steel filing cabinets had been taken.

Dr. Lycurgus Spinks, silver-haired "klansman for 40 years and proud of it," was at Morris' side during the brief hearing.

Spinks pledged a klan war on its political opponents Friday night at a public meeting in

suburban Tarrant City.

A candidate for governor of Mississippi in 1947, Dr. Spinks said he now lives in Thomasville, Ala.

He referred frequently, and not in complimentary terms, to Attorney General Albert Carmichael, who has been active in investigating masked mob activities.

Spinks predicted the Klan will have 150,000 members in Alabama by 1950, and "we're going to see that some of those birds down in Montgomery are retired to their country estates."

The speaker also invited "all red-blooded Americans, not now kluckers, to go to the nearest den," and apply for Klan membership.

About 600 heard him. None was masked.

Spinks told newsmen he lived in a plantation home at Thomasville built by his great-great-great-grandfather in 1812, seven years before Alabama became a state.

He said he had lectured "on almost every subject under the sun" in all the states and in some foreign countries, for more than 30 years. He is 64.

Spinks also mentioned his race for governor of Mississippi in 1947, when he polled only a few thousands votes. He said he "had a big time", although he was not elected.

Jailed Kluxer Gives Partial List Of Members

Alabama Chief Produces Names In New Try To Gain Freedom

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., Sept. 14 —(AP)— Jailed Klan Chief William Hugh Morris today gave a partial list of names of members of the white-robed order to a circuit judge.

The court immediately set a hearing for 2 p.m. Friday on a new petition seeking Morris' release from the cell he has been occupying for two months.

Morris, 44-year-old roofing contractor, was sentenced July 7 on a contempt of court citation arising from his refusal to produce the secret files for a grand jury investigating a wave of floggings, cross burnings and other mob violence here.

18 Have Been Indicted

The jury indicted 18 men on flogging and related charges.

Morris at first refused to produce the lists, then claimed he was unable to do so because they were stolen from his home while he was in jail. He heads the Federated Ku Klux Klan, Inc., an Alabama Klan.

Today he gave a small, sealed envelope to Circuit Judge Robert J. Wheeler. He said it contained a list of all the names he could remember of members of Jefferson County Klaverns.

At several previous hearings at which he sought to win his freedom, Morris told the court he was unable to remember the full name of a single member other than several officers.

Memory Refreshed

The new petition said that he "has, by every means within his power, refreshed his memory in an effort to identify by name persons known to him to be members . . ."

Later he told reporters the list was "by no means complete." He added:

"I could no more honestly and truthfully compile a Klan membership list from memory than Bishop Carpenter or Bishop Toolen could compile a like list of their churches in Jefferson County or than Bill Mitch could compile a list of the members of his different unions."

Bishop C. C. J. Carpenter is Episcopal bishop for Alabama, Bishop T. J. Toolen is the Catholic bishop, and William Mitch is district president of the United Mine Workers of America.

The state Supreme Court twice has refused to review the case. A third petition is now pending before the state tribunal.

Top Alabama Ku Klux Klan Leader Quits as Grand Jury Sets New Probe

Second Chief's House Ransacked

Birmingham, July 21 (AP)—The ranking Alabama Ku Klux Klan leader quit today as a grand jury prepared to take new evidence in the State's war on masked mobsters.

The home of another Klan leader, now in jail for refusing to produce K.K.K. records, was ransacked during the night and some papers stolen. Whether the Klan records were taken was not known.

Dr. E. P. Pruitt, 72-year-old Birmingham physician, resigned as president of the Federated Ku Klux Klans, Inc., after a row with William Hugh Morris, K.K.K. director.

17 Already Indicted.

"I differ with some of the elements that have wormed their way into the Klan—men who used Klan robes to go out and whip people," Dr. Pruitt said.

The grand jury meets in special session tomorrow. Seventeen persons were indicted for mob violence by a previous grand jury.

Morris' home in the Mount Olive community, 15 miles north of here, was found in great disorder today by Mrs. Morris, who had spent the night elsewhere.

Morris, in jail since July 7 on a contempt citation for refusing to give the records to a grand jury, said his K.K.K. papers were there and possibly were stolen. "How can I ever get out of jail if the records are stolen?" he asked.

To Resume Practice.

Dr. Pruitt and Morris, who have differed before, split this time over when the physician resigned. Morris told newsmen he had been head of the white-sheeted order since June 14. He announced Dr. Pruitt's resignation more than 12 hours before the physician was ready to say he had quit.

Dr. Pruitt said he was moving to Springville, Ala., 26 miles northeast of here, to resume the practice of medicine.

The Klan was attacked on a new front today by Attorney General Albert A. Carmichael, the State's chief prosecutor. At Montgomery, Carmichael said:

"We have definite proof that Klan members took part in at least four floggings in recent weeks, that the Klan instigated those acts, and that they were official actions of the Federated Ku Klux Klans, Inc." Carmichael urged support for a measure to revoke the K.K.K. charter in Alabama.

Klansman Gets Until Monday To Produce Secret Records

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., July 29 —(AP)—Klan chief William Hugh Morris today was given additional time to comply with a court order that he bring secret KKK membership rolls before a grand jury.

Judge George Lewis Bailes told Morris today he could have until 9:0 a.m. Monday to clear himself of a contempt charge first brought last July.

The grand jury meanwhile recessed until 9:30 a.m. Tuesday, when it will be available to receive any records produced by Morris. The jury made no report and returned no indictments during the two-day session.

Morris, who served 16 days in jail for refusing to produce the records, now is under a conditional bond which requires him to bring the membership list.

The Klan head told newsmen after today's decision that he would "do everything I can" to have the records by Monday. He told the grand jury yesterday it was "physically impossible" to bring the records, since they were stolen from his home July 20 when he still was in jail.

State's attorneys sought to have Morris sent back to jail today. They objected to the delay, requested by Morris' attorney.

Hugh Locke, attorney for the Klansman, said he needed the time to prepare Morris' defense.

Judge Bailes said he was "more impressed with the idea of giving time for Morris to bring in the records, than for the purpose of preparing his defense."

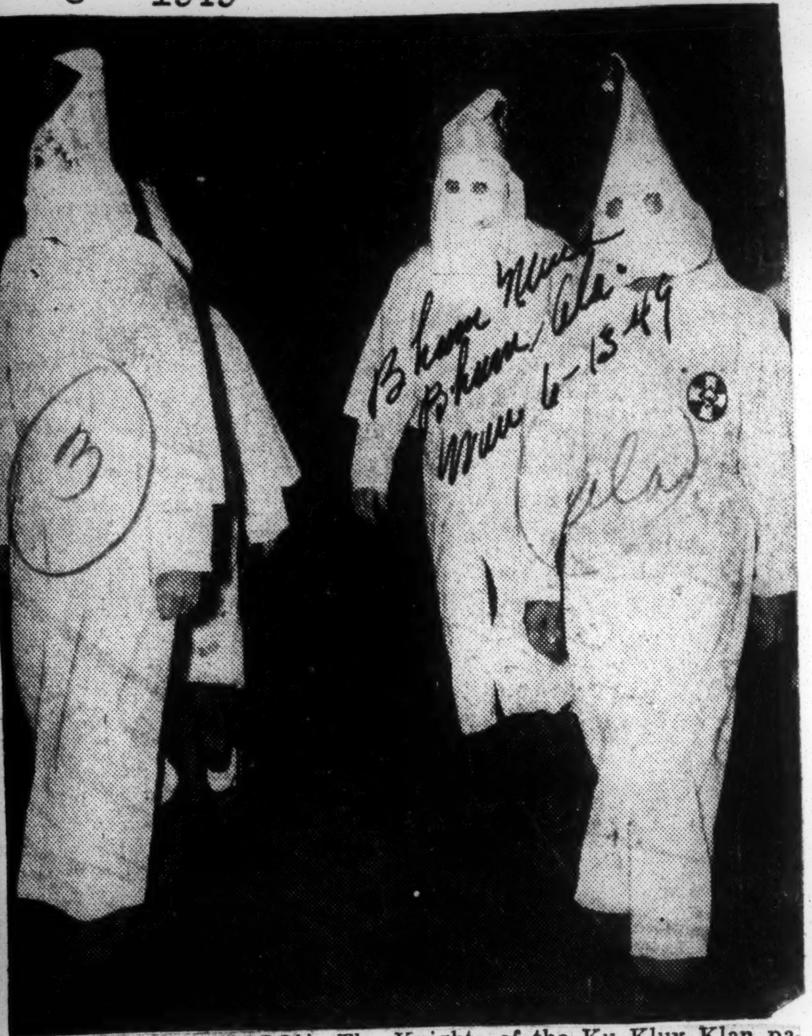
Today's court session was taken up by long arguments between attorneys over court procedure.

Locke, at one point, said any denial of the delay would restrict "the human rights, the liberty" of Morris.

State Attorney General Albert Carmichael then jumped up to "object to this man Morris" using those terms. "How many human rights, how much liberty was accorded to those flogged in this county?" he asked.

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., July 29 —(AP)—An organized citizens committee conferred today with city officials and law enforcement officers.

A spokesman said the group studied law enforcement procedure and the county jury selection system. Speaking before the group were Circuit Solicitor Emmett Perry, Judge George Lewis Bailes, City Commissioner Eugene Connor, Sheriff Holt McDowell and P. D. Posey, county jury commission clerk.



KLAN ON THE MARCH—The Knights of the Ku Klux Klan paraded in Tuscaloosa Saturday night. Here are some of the hooded and robed men as they marched through the town. Most of the cars in which they rode bore Jefferson County license tags. Atty. Gen. Albert A. Carmichael has laid the two recent Jefferson County hooded rider incidents to the door of the Ku Klux Klan.

Klan And Pickets

To the Editor:

Seeing so much in The Birmingham News the past several days, I am compelled to say that I feel that the citizens of Jefferson and Shelby Counties are not doing their sheriffs justice. I am not acquainted with either of these gentlemen, but I live within 20 miles of the Jefferson line and I feel that we have a good sheriff and good deputies and I feel the same by the above.

I am not a K. K. K., but when it was first organized I read one of its rituals and bylaws and found it to be next to religion. On my second night of attendance, I was appointed on a committee to watch this bank of the river and report any violation of our prohibition laws. I asked them if I had joined a prohibition organization. I never attended another meeting.

If we can do all we are doing about the Ku Klux, why can't some of the smart men get some law passed in Montgomery and Washington about the picket lines around the striking district? If they want to picket anywhere, let them picket the homes. As to this Shelby County affair, the idea of this number going to a little mine, even where the owners were digging coal, and not only knocking and abusing persons, but taking personal property I don't think there is a Klansman who would be so low down as to do it.

I will be 86 years old Aug. 9.

C. T. CALDWELL, Mayor, Town of Riverside, Ala.

Alabama Fears Klan's Supremacy Program

THE Ku Klux Klan, self-anointed preserver of white supremacy, has recently favored the people of Alabama with an enlightening demonstration of Klan technique in maintaining the supremacy of the white race.

The technique, Governor James E. Folsom, state legislators and other groups have discovered to their apparent dismay, includes the application of lessons they had thought were reserved for Negroes only.

But the Klan in Alabama has now quite clearly demonstrated the fact that kidnapping and flogging of white men, including war veterans, abusing and maltreating white women, also form a convenient part of its supremacy program.

As a result, a "stop-the-Klan" alarm has been raised throughout the state. So long as white native-born Protestants felt assured that Ku Kluxery meant a threat to the safety of nobody save Negroes, Jews and Catholics, the night-riders were looked upon as acceptable neighbors.

Not until the hooded terrorists began to cast their terror across the color line, did the leaders of the state start a move to suppress them. Here it might be aptly quoted, "It all depends on whose ox is gored."

Morris May Get Chance To Talk

Recall Of Summer Panel Likely Move, Talk Centers On What'll Happen

Klan Leader William Hugh Morris, free from jail on bond and a promise to deliver Klan records to a Grand Jury, may get a chance to "tell it" to a Grand Jury soon.

Solicitor Emmett Perry today said the next move in the state vs. Morris and the Klan case would be up to the state.

Mr. Perry did not elaborate, but the next move could mean only that the Summer Grand Jury will be called back to give the Klan leader and opportunity to present the evidence asked by the Spring Grand Jury.

Morris says that evidence—records of the Federated Ku Klux Klan, Inc.—has been stolen from his Gardendale home.

* * *

JUST WHAT WILL HAPPEN if and when Moris called back before the Grand Jury and he tells jurors he is willing to deliver the papers, but can't find them, is a moot question.

Some attorneys pointed out today that Morris refused to deliver the papers when he had them.

Whether the court will allow Morris to purge himself of the contempt sentence by saying that he would produce the records if he had them is a question that will have to be decided when it comes up.

Morris had said that he would "let the jail rot down around me" before he would produce the evidence.

He changed his mind when he signed bond, promising to deliver those same records in return for his freedom.

The state under Solicitor Emmett Perry has indicated that it will resist any such effort by Morris to purge himself without producing the records sought.

The state is expected to point to Morris' repeated statements that he would never give up the records. Beside these statements the state may lay Morris' written promise to produce the records. This promise was made only after the records were reported stolen.

Morris signed the conditional bond and was released from the county's penthouse prison at 5:32 p.m. Saturday. The conditional bond was fixed by Judge Wheeler on July 9—two days after Morris was first ordered to jail.

Morris declined to sign the same bond which he did sign Saturday. The bond is for $500.

The sudden move for freedom came after Morris had lost a plea before Circuit Judge Alta L. King earlier in the day.

Judge King ruled that he had no jurisdiction to alter or modify the original court order committing Morris to jail. He pointed out that the Alabama Supreme Court had upheld the order and had thereby taken jurisdiction of the case.

* * *

MORRIS WAS ASKED by the Spring Grand Jury in investigating masked mob violence and the Ku Klux Klan to produce the records of the Klan.

He admitted having such records, but refused to deliver them.

The Grand Jury asked Judge Wheeler to cite Morris for contempt of court for refusing to produce the records.

This was on July 7.

ON RECORD FOR REVOKE

The Citizens Committee of 500 has gone on record as asking the state Legislature to revoke the charter of the Federated Ku Klux Klan, Inc. That's what a spokesman said today in commenting on Atty. Gen. Albert Carmichael's request for committee help.

Mr. Carmichael yesterday called on the citizens committee to urge the Jefferson County legislative delegation to pass a local bill dissolving the charter of the Ku Klux Klan.

Frank Yeilding, acting chairman in the absence of Donald Comer, said today that citizens committee, representing business, industry, churches, labor and civic groups, would meet Friday.

"We will discuss the attorney general's request at that time," Mr. Yeilding said.

Judge Wheeler in open court instructed Morris to give the evidence the Grand Jury asked.

Morris told the court he knew where the records were, but could not violate his oath as a Klansman and reveal the secret documents.

* * *

JUDGE WHEELER then sentenced him to jail for direct contempt of court "until you produce the evidence the Grand Jury asked for."

Morris was sent to jail where he received plaudits and flowers from Klansmen.

When the Spring Grand Jury was disbanded on July 9 his attorney a few seconds later entered a plea to release Morris.

Judge Wheeler fixed the conditional bond, which would have allowed Morris to go free if he promised to give the evidence the Grand Jury wanted.

LATER WHEN Judge George Lewis Bailes organized the Summer Grand Jury, Morris sought freedom on the grounds that the Grand Jury which had asked for the evidence no longer existed.

The Summer Grand Jury, however, went ahead with the investigation of the Ku Klux Klan and demanded the same evidence.

Morris was brought from jail before the new Summer Grand Jury.

Again he refused to produce the Klan records.

This Grand Jury asked Judge Bailes to sentence him for contempt of court.

Judge Bailes did not act on the request.

Meanwhile Morris appealed to

Supreme Court through his attorneys.

Judge Bailes ruled that he would not act on a case pending before the higher court.

* * *

LATER THE SUPREME Court heard Atty. Locke's plea, then voted four-to-two to turn down the petition. That meant Morris had to stay in jail until he produced the records for a Grand Jury.

Judge Bailes finally ruled on the second Grand Jury's request that Morris again be held in contempt of court.

Judge Bailes ruled that there would be no point in holding Morris for contempt again.

Judge Wheeler, who was ill during the Spring Grand Jury investigation, and seemed to be suffering a severe cold when he sentenced Morris, became seriously ill.

Meanwhile the second Grand Jury organized by Judge Bailes came under criticism after it was learned that a former Klansman, a former convict and an illiterate were on the 18-man Grand Jury.

Judge Bailes announced that he was a member of the Klan in the '20s.

For this reason apparently Judge King heard Morris' latest plea for freedom Saturday.

ALABAMA ARRESTS 15TH MAN IN TERROR

N.Y. Times

2 Still Free in Klan Roundup as New Grand Jury Recalls Chief of Hooded Group

New York

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., July 12 (UP)—Law enforcement officers today arrested a fifteenth flogging suspect. Two others on the list of seventeen who were indicted for participation in Alabama's wave of hooded terrorism were reported "out of the state."

Authorities reported that both men were expected back this weekend and that they would be arrested to complete the round-up. Six of those charged have posted bond. Nine others are in jail. Burglary charges against six of them were not bailable.

Meanwhile a new grand jury, empaneled to round out the mob violence investigation, summoned the Ku Klux Klan's director, William Hugh Morris, from his cell to testify. He was kept waiting outside the grand jury room for several hours. *7-13-49*

Like the retiring grand jury which indicted the seventeen, the new investigating body had subpenaed Morris to produce a list of the Klan membership in Jefferson County (Birmingham). When he refused to comply with the former jury's request, Circuit Judge Robert J. Wheeler jailed him.

The State Supreme Court is considering whether to release Morris on a writ of certiorari and the prisoner, meanwhile, showed no disposition to comply with the new demand to supply the Klan roster. It was believed he might receive another contempt citation in event the original sentence does not stand.

"Boycott" Statute Put to Use

The fifteenth man arrested was Bernice O. Black, a tin mill worker at suburban Ensley. He was indicted under an old "boycotting" statute made applicable to the raid on Steve Marshaler's cafe in Brookside by a gang of hooded men. The restaurant man said the mob warned him to cease serving both Negroes and whites at his place.

Among those arrested yesterday were a suburban police chief, Elmer Brock, of Brookside, and a former special deputy sheriff, Coleman Lollar.

Today, it was disclosed that two others caught in the round-up had law-enforcement connections. James F. Shaffer, 48, of Brookside, was a part-time policeman and assistant to Chief Brock, officers said. Shaffer was indicted on the boycotting count. Henry Nelson, 50, another, was reported to be a constable in the Flat Creek community.

It was made known, too, that four special state officers have arrived in this city to assist the new Jefferson County Grand Jury and to fortify the charges against those already implicated in the floggings.

Court Rejects Klan Leader's Review Appeal

Two Justices Disagree That Jailed Klansman Given Full Legal Rights

Montgomery, Ala.

A Ku Klux Klan leader's appeal for review of contempt proceedings leading to his confinement in jail was turned down yesterday by the Alabama Supreme Court.

With two of the six justices dissenting, the court refused to grant a writ of certiorari.

The petition was sought by William Hugh Morris, director of the Federated Ku Klux Klan, Inc., who has refused to obey Circuit Judge Robert J. Wheeler's order to turn over Klan records.

Morris was subpoenaed during a recent grand jury investigation to furnish records of his organization.

In a brief order the Supreme Court said the petition was denied because it showed "direct contempt" committed in the presence of the lower court.

Errors Denied

Morris, the court said, was afforded "due process" before he was sent to jail and "no error appears on the face of the record or that the evidence brought was not material."

The court order cited several cases on which the ruling was based.

Voting not to review the case were Justices Joel B. Brown, A. B. Foster, Robert T. Simpson, Jr., and Davis F. Stakely. Justices Thomas S. Lawson and J. Ed Livingston dissented.

Lawson filed a dissenting opinion which was concurred in by Judge Livingston.

They didn't agree that Morris was given the benefit of due process of law.

Judge Lawson said while the circuit judge was informed that the Klan leader had refused to produce records of his organization's membership in Jefferson County "no formal accusation was made."

"Petitioner was given no notice of any hearing to be held before Judge Wheeler," he said, "nor was opportunity afforded him to plead, answer or demur, or to have counsel in his behalf."

Rights Cited

The dissent pointed out that the petition involves the rights of Hugh Morris, an individual. As such it said, his rights must not be affected by his office in an organization accused of acts of terrorism and unlawfulness.

"Such acts, of course, can not be condoned," Judge Lawson said, "but petitioner can not be denied due process of law merely because of his membership in such an organization."

Lawson said he realized the dignity of the courts must be maintained, but doubted it would have been impaired in this case if Morris had been cited to show cause why he should not be held in contempt or given opportunity to secure counsel and prepare his defense. *7-14-49*

The supreme court heard arguments on Morris's appeal Thursday.

Defense Attorney Hugh Locke of Birmingham contended Morris wasn't guilty of contempt because he wasn't properly summoned into court.

He said previous court decisions have held no one can be held in contempt without a chance to defend himself and have legal counsel.

Locke contended further that even if Morris had been guilty of contempt he should have been released when the grand jury was dismissed. *7-16-49*

The supreme court decision not to interfere with the order jailing the Birmingham Klan leader was hailed in glowing terms by Atty. Gen. Albert Carmichael.

He said the decision is one "against lawlessness and against the Ku Klux Klan" and aims a "solar plexus blow" at the Klan in Alabama.

Carmichael, who assisted in a Jefferson County grand jury's investigation into recent flogging activities, added.

"The fight has just begun. There will be no let up. The fight will be a continuous one. We shall strike this bunch of bums on all fronts, and we shall strike again and again. It is a fight to the finish . . . no holds barred."

The attorney general has promised to start legal action to revoke the charter of the Federated Klan in Jefferson County.

Revenge Said Motive For 'Cross Burning'

Birmingham, Ala.

SHEFFIELD, Ala., June 27—Two Mt. Pinson youths were arrested here in the burning of a cross.

It was the first arrest made in Alabama in the recent wave of cross burnings.

Chief of Police Robert Price said the young men are James Clifford Harris, 20, and Cecil Edward Davison, of Mt. Pinson.

The police chief said the cross was burned at the home of Howard Crowden. He said the young men said they burned the cross "to get even with Junior Crowden, a brother of the householder.

No robes or hoods were seen at the cross burning. *6-27-49*

"It looks like the boys have been reading the papers too much," Chief Price said.

Sheriff Investigates Dogtown 'Burning'

Mon. 6-27-49

A cross was burned in front of the home of Homer Leatherwood, of Dogtown in Jefferson County last night.

Sheriff Holt McDowell who personally investigated the case said he was satisfied it was a "personal matter."

No robed figures were seen and officers agreed there appeared to be no Klan connection.

Bailes Tells Jury He Won't Take Up Action Now

Says He Will Not Pre-Judge Matter

Before High Court

An attempt by the Jefferson County Grand Jury now in session to again cite William Hugh Morris, Klan official, for contempt of court had apparently failed today.

Circuit Court Judge George Lewis Bailes, who had charged the Grand Jury on Monday to investigate "night time burglaries in the county made by masked mobs," told the Grand Jury and Solicitor Emmett Perry that he would not entertain the matter at this time.

Judge Bailes said the court's reaction to the request is that Morris is now in jail charged with a direct contempt.

This, the judge said, is an effort to repeat the process.

He stated further that Morris was now trying to determine his rights before the Alabama Supreme Court.

"Who am I to pre-judge a matter now before the Supreme Court," he asked. *7-13-49*

Judge Bailes said "this court would not be interested in hearing any matter pertaining to this motion while a similar action is pending before the Supreme Court."

* * *

THE JUDGE SAID he would set a hearing on the petition today as soon as he was informed the Supreme Court had rendered its decision in the Morris appeal.

Solicitor Perry read the lengthy motion for citation and asked the court to require Morris to give certain evidence that was needed by this Grand Jury.

"This Grand Jury is investigating activities of The Federated Ku Klux Klan, Inc."

Perry told the judge that this was pursuant to the charge "your honor gave this body on Monday."

The solicitor argued that the entire matter is separate from the contempt citation Circuit Judge Robert J. Wheeler imposed upon Morris last week.

* * *

PERRY SAID this is a different Grand Jury, a different court and a different day.

Judge Bailes said he considered it the same court, the same defendant, same order and same evidence which is being sought.

Solicitor Perry said he wanted to file a motion in open court and asked that it be heard at the earliest moment.

He pointed out that the Grand Jury hopes to recess by Friday of this week.

"I would not like to call them back together next week to consider the same matters," the solicitor told the court.

Meanwhile, the 15th arrest was made yesterday on indictments by the last Grand Jury which investigated hooded terrorism in this area.

Bernice O. Black, 43-year-old steelworker, 2523 Avenue E, Ensley, was brought in by Deputies Troy Tate and J. W. Williams. He is accused of boycotting. Bond of $500 was posted.

* * *

MORRIS WAS BROUGHT from the County Jail to appear before the Grand Jury at 3:15 yesterday afternoon. He was in the jury room about 30 minutes.

On his return trip to the jail, Morris told newsmen he had "been asked "the same questions" and had given "the same answers" as before.

The last Grand Jury demanded that Morris produce Klan records and membership lists. He refused and was cited for direct contempt of court. He has been in jail nearly a week on the charge.

An appeal of Morris' contempt case will be heard by the State Supreme Court at Montgomery tomorrow morning. Morris was sentenced to stay in jail until the records are produced.

* * *

MORRIS HAS MAINTAINED that he never will reveal Klan records to the Grand Jury. "I regard those records as I would regard the records of any secret order," he said.

He told newsmen that the records are "very complete." He said they contain the name, address, church affiliation, lodge connections "and a lot of personal habits of each member."

He said he could stay 100 years in the County Jail. "They're treating me very nicely here."

Black and the 14 other men arrested on the Grand Jury indictments had been released last night under bonds ranging up to $8,500.

THE MEN are:

Coleman (Brownie) Lollar, former Jefferson County special deputy; Richard Lollar, Roy Landrum, Albert Swindle, A. B. Carradine, C. Dozier.

Police Chief Elmer Bailey Brock, of Brookside; James Floyd Shaffer, Brookside policeman; Henry Nelson, constable at Flat Creek, in Walker County.

Klan Officers Subpoenaed Four More Floggings Bared

Bham News
Bham-Ala.
Tue. 7-5-49

Two Women, Two Men Relate To Grand Jury Here Stories Of Beatings By Mobsters

High-ranking officers of the Federated Ku Klux Klan, Inc., were subpoenaed today by the Jefferson County Grand Jury.

The first man to arrive in answer to the summons was Dr. E. P. Pruitt, president of the hooded order.

It is expected the Grand Jury will make some attempt to examine the Klan's books and records. However, when Dr. Pruitt arrived he was empty-handed.

* * *

THE SECOND OFFICER of the Klan to be called was E. E. Campbell, grand cyclops of the Robert E. Lee Klan, which meets in Birmingham.

Mr. Campbell was in the corridors outside the Grand Jury room this morning, but was not summoned until late this afternoon.

Meanwhile four more floggings by masked and armed men in Western Jefferson County was brought to light today when victims appeared at the courthouse to testify before the Grand Jury.

Two women and two men were taken from a home at Lynn's Park, near Praco, in April and lashed by the hooded mobsters on the road in front of the house.

About 75 to 100 robed men, many of them armed, raided the Lynn Park home of Mrs. Elizabeth Studdard, flogged Mrs. Studdard and her 21-year-old daughter, Opal, and two men, Albert Sanders and Auxford Spradlin, of Praco.

Mrs. Studdard appeared at the courthouse today to reveal the lashings. She told her story while awaiting a call to enter the Grand Jury room where 18 grand jurors are investigating hooded floggings in Jefferson County.

MRS. STUDDARD said she was called to the front door by Brownie Lollar, a special deputy sheriff.

Mrs. Studdard said the next thing she knew the house was surrounded by hooded and robed men, bristling with guns and pistols.

Lollar was found guarding a Klan meeting at Adamsville by state investigators in June. His honorary deputy's commission was revoked the next day by Sheriff Holt McDowell.

When the robed men called to flog the two women and two men, Mrs. Studdard said, they also took out her brother, Emmett Hobson.

"They started to whip Emmett, too," she said, "but Emmett has heart trouble and we begged them not to whip him. So they let him go without whipping him."

Mrs. Studdard said the hooded men lashed her and her daughter four times.

Auxford was struck 10 times and Sander eight times by the hooded men, she said.

CONSTABLE T. J. Hubbard, of Maxine, a mining community in the western part of Jefferson County, appeared today to testify before the Grand Jury.

Constable Hubbard, before entering the Grand Jury room, said that on Sunday night after the April night beating of the two women and two men a band of hooded and robed men marched into the Hopewell No. 1 Baptist Church.

Today's first witness to be called before the secret session was Jack Alexander, of West Jefferson.

Alexander told newsmen last week he had been kidnaped and flogged by a masked band.

* * *

HE WAS FOLLOWED to the Grand Jury room by Mary Alice Henderson, of Praco. She also was flogged on the same April night.

William Stevens, of West Jefferson, the third person to be flogged by the same group of hooded men, followed Mary Alice Henderson into the secret session.

Before Stevens was called into the Grand Jury room, the bailiff called for A. D. Driver, Ku Klux Klan investigator. Driver was not at the courthouse, but arrived about 40 minutes later.

STATE INVESTIGATOR W. L. Allen followed Stevens into the Grand Jury room. He is one of the special state men who have investigated floggings in this area.

The Grand Jury was called into special session last Wednesday to get to the bottom of night riding activities here by hooded and masked gangs of men.

The jury, in session Friday and Saturday, heard 30 witnesses.

* * *

TESTIMONY OF the witnesses last week was believed confined to four cases. They were the May 28 kidnaping and flogging of Billy Hamilton, Coalburg; the June 10 invasion of a Westwood woman's home and the burning of a cross outside a Brookside cafe that night and the June 13 flogging of Billy Guyton Stovall, Northside Navy veteran.

Some 25 witnesses excused Friday afternoon by the jury were due at the courthouse at 2:30 p.m. today.

Rosehill Woman Warned

Mrs. M A Crawford, of Rosehill community, reported a cross was burned in her yard about 11:15 a.m. Saturday.

She appeared at the office of Solicitor Emmett Perry today to seek permission to testify before the Grand Jury. Mrs. Crawford said a warning note was left by the burning cross. The note said: "Warning. K. K. K."

LASH VICTIM—Mary Alice Henderson, of Praco, was the second person to testify before the Jefferson County Grand Jury this morning. She reported she was beaten by hooded men in May.

He'll Go Back To Cell If Records Refused—Ruling

Bham News
Bham, Ala.
Sat. 7-9-49

William Hugh Morris, Klan leader, will be released from jail today under $500 bond.

Morris agreed to appear before the new Grand Jury that convenes Monday and "give evidence" called for.

Under Circuit Judge Robert J. Wheeler's ruling on the bond today, Morris may be returned to jail for contempt if he again refuses to turn over the requested Klan records.

The judge's ruling came after a hot exchange between attorneys in Judge Wheeler's court.

THE ORDER setting bond for Morris contained this provision:

"The condition of the above obligation is such that the said Hugh Morris is admitted to bail in the sum of $500 conditioned for his appearance before the Grand Jury to be organized July 11, 1949, and then and there to give evidence and the truth to speak in said cause in all respects as required by the court on July 7, 1949, in open court when the defendant was by the court adjudged in direct contempt of court.

"Now if the said Hugh Morris shall appear and abide by the conditions as heretofore set forth, then this obligation to be null and void, otherwise to remain in full force and effect."

Sheriff Holt McDowell was given a subpoena by the clerk of the court to be served on Morris. The subpoena requires him to be present at the Grand Jury session starting Monday.

* * *

THE MOVE TO FREE MORRIS began a moment after Judge Wheeler dismissed the Grand Jury.

As the courtroom began to clear, Atty. Hugh Locke asked the court to be heard.

He told Judge Wheeler that Morris should be freed from jail immediately because he was found guilty of contempt of a Grand Jury which no longer existed.

Atty. Locke argued that since the Grand Jury had been dismissed Morris no longer could be charged with refusing to give that body records.

* * *

"YOU HAVE NOW discharged the only body that could receive those records," Mr. Locke said.

"Thus, your present order citing him for contempt, your honor, would give him a life sentence if the order remains."

The Klan director's attorney maintained that the contempt action last Thursday was done at the request of Atty. Gen. Albert A. Carmichael.

"It was at the request of the Grand Jury," Judge Wheeler said.

"Mr. Carmichael was only the mouthpiece."

"Well," Locke said, "that's purely a legal question. You've got a man in jail for contempt. The Grand Jury is adjourned. Those records were asked only for investigation and there is no longer and need for that."

Locke said that the judge had authority to fine Morris five days for contempt and if the contempt was "continuing" Morris could be held.

"But," he said, "Morris cannot be in contempt of the Grand Jury because the Grand Jury has been dismissed."

After Mr. Locke made his plea Atty. Gen. Carmichael arose and told the court that it was admitted that Morris might make bond.

"There is a question as to whether or not the Grand Jury called for next week by another judge will call for, or want, the records requested by the Grand Jury you have just released," the attorney said.

Both Carmichael and Solicitor Emmett Perry argued that if Morris should be released on bond "it would be a circuitous route" to gain his freedom.

Mr. Perry and Judge Wheeler engaged in a lengthy discussion as to whether Morris should be allowed bond and just what would happen if he were.

"WE HAVE HERE YOUR HONOR," Perry said, "a man who has refused in open court records asked by the Grand Jury.

"Is this man to escape punishmen for refusing to present this evidence to the Grand Jury?

"The only way Morris can purge himself is to state to this court at this time that he will furnish these records to the Grand Jury called next week.

"Why doesn't your honor call him now into court and ask him if he will furnish these records to the next Grand Jury."

AT THIS POINT Atty. Locke and the solicitor engaged in a verbal clash.

Judge Wheeler interrupted the exchange.

Throughout the discussion Solicitor Perry protested vigorously the releasing of Morris without getting a promise from him that he would furnish the records to the next Grand Jury.

The argument between Mr. Locke and Mr. Perry grew warm and the judge struck his gavel on the bench to restore order when Mr. Locke shouted:

"How can we determine what a man will tell a court?"

* * *

ALL MEMBERS of the dismissed Grand Jury retained their seats during the arguments before the court. They listened intently at the discussions by the lawyers and at comments from the bench.

Other interested spectators were several Klan officials.

'Oh, Well—It Doesn't Concern Me'

Alabama Press On Violence In Jefferson

An Open Challenge

(From The Selma Times-Journal)

Although masked and robed bands have gotten away with several outrages against law and order in Alabama recently, we do not believe that they are going to get away with the flogging of Billy Guy Stovall of Birmingham.

Birmingham, Ala.

Stovall is an ex-service man of World War II and the cowardly attack in which he was given 20 lashes constitutes an open challenge to all veterans' organizations of the state to step into the picture of hooded violence and force adequate action to stop it. . . .

Certainly no higher or more appropriate cause could be found for the men and women who have gone to war for America, and we are confident that no other crusade could be more effective if it is backed to the hilt by all veteran groups with the same enthusiasm with which they have sought other objectives.

* * *

The K. K. K. Breaks Out Again

(From The Moulton Advertiser)

It's breaking out again just like nettle rash and it's just as ugly and just as repulsive to honest, God-loving people as it ever was.

We mean, of course, that those brave, brave "nights" of the Ku Klux Klan have again pulled on their hoods and started beating women over the head with a stick. . . .

Any secret organization which exemplifies its ideals through acts of violence and through covert acts such as those in which the Klan delights cannot be one of noble thoughts. If it is, then its members are adept at the old trick of not letting their right hand know what their left is doing.

There is no place in America—"home of the free and the brave"—for these lily-livered cowards who dare to call themselves "knights." And every time the K. K. K. makes a public demonstration here in the South, our progress towards better understanding among peoples of different races and different creeds is pushed a giant-step backwards.

* * *

Publicity Necessary

(From The Tuscaloosa News)

. . . The situation is such in Alabama that some attorneys claim the average city cannot enact an ordinance forbiding parades through the streets by masked bands. It appears that Birmingham can adopt such an ordinance, because of peculiarities in its city charter. But other Alabama cities, covered by general charter provisions, seem to have their hands tied unless the state first enacts the law.

Some of the cases now being uncovered "in the light of publicity," took place several weeks ago.

These incidents of terrorism have remained hidden far too long. It appears that victims of such persecution have been disinclined to tell the law or the public about the hooded mobs which called at their homes.

Rather than too much publicity, this phase of Alabama has received far too little attention in previous months.

Fri. 6-24-49

Folsom Leads Fight

(From The Huntsville Times)

There has been so much to criticize in Gov. Folsom's administration that it is refreshing to have the opportunity to commend his policy and his statements with reference to the series of flogging outrages recently, in and around Jefferson County.

While the sheriffs of Jefferson, Walker and perhaps some other counties have been quiescent, the governor has thrown the full power of his office into investigating them. . . .

As befits the office he holds, the governor has taken the lead and flung a broad challenge not only to the Legislature, but also to the decent citizens of Alabama, to stamp out the hooded hoodlumism that has been rampant in a few sections of the state. . . .

* * *

'Ought To Be A Law'

(From The Alabama Journal, Montgomery)

"There ought to be a law" is an old, old cry to correct evils and nuisances. But experience has long since shown that a mere law does not correct the evils or abate the nuisances.

The Alabama Legislature seems upon the point of outlawing the wearing of masks as a means of stopping the recent outrages in Jefferson and Walker Counties. . . .

It takes public sentiment, and a strong and vigorous public sentiment to stop such things. . . .

In Jefferson County they found a deputy sheriff serving as doorkeeper at a Klan meeting. How can enforcement of any law against a Klan be expected to operate when it is to be enforced by such a deputy?

Unless the people of Jefferson County and Walker County make up their minds that they want those Klan outbursts stopped they will not ever be stopped through enactment of a law. . . .

It takes more than writing a law in Montgomery to maintain order in a county like Jefferson.

Birmingham, Ala.

Finish The Job

(From The Talladega Daily Home)

. . . Mask-wearing mobs which flog and intimidate are intolerable, and our Senate has approved a measure making the wearing of hoods an offense punishable by law. The House may be expected to follow suit immediately in response to a rising tide of public demand.

But action against masked mobs is not enough.

Hooded night riders are no worse than the brutal goons who recently descended upon a small, unorganized Birmingham district coal mine to subject its few workers to a particularly sickening example of ruffianism.

The Legislature will not have put Alabama's house in order until it sets up protection against all mobs—masked and unmasked. . . .

Fri. 6-24-49

Hooded And Armed Men

(From The Mountain Eagle, Jasper)

People have committed murder thinking they were doing God's will, people have been burned at the stake by religious fanatics who thought they were serving the Lord. Maybe some of the members of the robed, hooded and armed organization that invaded the locked home of Mrs. Hugh McDanal in Jefferson County last Friday night thought they were serving the best interest of Jefferson County. They should check up on their own activities, however. . . .

Was there any evidence of Christianity in striking a helpless woman over the head two or three times and dragging her out of her own home and threatening her before a burning cross? . . .

An aroused public sentiment against such acts is the only remedy for such acts as that on Friday night. . . .

Two Alabama Youths Held In Cross-Burning

Two Birmingham youths were being held by Sheffield authorities Monday night in connection with a cross-burning near the Alabama town Saturday night.

The two were listed by police as James C. Harris, twenty and Cecil E. Davidson, eighteen.

Their arrest is the first in the state in connection with the series of cross-burnings, hooded raids and floggings.

By WILL T. SHEEHAN

Battle Against the Klan

Examiner

(Editor's Note: This is the second in a series of two articles by Mr. Sheehan on the background of the Ku Klux Klan in Alabama.)

Montgomery, Ala.

It was a balmy summer evening and a goodly crowd was there. At the Antioch Church in Oneonta the local klavern of the Klan was holding a klonvocation. Jeff Calloway an orphan boy, paused nearby to take a drink from his bottle when suddenly the doors of the church burst open and God's self-appointed holy legion charged out, seized the boy, flogged him within an inch of his life. His crime?—Taking a drink near a church where a Klan meeting was being held.

Sat 7-7-49

This was the turning point. The newspapers entered the case, a fearless judge on the bench refused to be intimidated. The fat-heads were in the fire.

The press, led by militant Editor Grover C. Hall, later awarded the Pulitzer Prize, cracked down on the Klan governor. Public opinion blazed up and Gov. Bibb Graves was forced to issue a statement that he favored bringing floggers to justice. All over the state plaintiffs and witnesses came to life—they had legal protection after all. Seven hundred documented cases of floggings poured into the office of attorney General Charlie C. McCall.

* * *

Torch of Freedom

McCall, an energetic, brilliant young erratic firebrand, and a klansman himself, turned his back on the fiery cross and took up the torch of freedom. The Attorney General was labeled many things—a crusader, a political opportunist, an honest public servant a traitor, a show off, Alabama's savior, a fence—jumping turncoat.

7-7-49

Here's your man, choose your title. McCall succeeded in indicting and convicting five men in Blount county. Twelve hoodlums from the Tarrant City Klan and Birmingham area were indicted, as were 34 men in Butler and Crenshow County, on 102 counts. Charlie was amply qualified for his job. As a klansman he knew exactly where to look for secret documents, regalia, and all manner of evidence.

But all the cards were stacked against him. A Crenshaw County Negro whose deportment had been a model of circumspection had been flogged so badly that four months of hospitalization was required. His white folks, a Mr. Gibson, demanded justice for his hired hand, and for his trouble had his barn containing his car and farm machinery burned to the ground. With confessions in a related flogging case, McCall went before the Crenshaw County bar and heard the entire courtroom stand up and cheer, when a verdict of acquittal was returned by the jury.

* * *

Duty To Klan

Cecil Davis was ordered to the witness stand but declared he couldn't testify as his oath to the Klan superceded his allegiance to his state. McCall declared "The State of Alabama can revoke the charter of the klan whenever it pleases." That was 22 years ago. This column is now asking the State Legislators why it has never seen fit to revoke it?

Thaxton Miller was tried for flogging a white man; there were many eye witnesses, the case was air-tight, but the jury acquitted him, and again, the court room stood up and cheered.

Charlie C. McCall was becoming an embarrassing nuisance to the klan-soiled politicians of the state public opinion was waning, so Jim Esdale, the Grand Dragon, dropped an executive order down to Graves and told him to have Charlie lay off. If these same Klan-soiled politicians would like to destroy all published copies of this letter they can begin, by burning down the Department of Archives and History, and the Montgomery Carnegie Library.

* * *

Fanny Daniels Case

All indictments were suddenly nol prossed. The seven hundred floggings were forgotten. One of them was the case of little 17-year old Fanny Daniels of Luverne, who had married an elderly man from Birmingham through a lonely hearts advertisement. When her father died she left her husband due to in incompatibility, and returned home to care for her mother.

Interest in a boy near her own age was only natural, but to correct this unholy alliance, one Rev. L. A. Nalls of Georgiana led a mob of hooded sadists to this manless home (a type of establishment popular with active klansmen), broke the door in, dragged her from bed, watched her dress, slapped her for "talking back to a klansman", took her to the woods and flogged her unmercifully. No word of censor was ever made against the boy involved.

7-7-49

This "Reverent" character Nalls, was around on a good many occasions to cast the first stone.

A man and wife who had both previously been divorced, were considered by Nalls to be living in sin, so he gathered his "immaculate cohorts" and paid a midnight call. Mother and father were dragged into the yard and before their four screaming children, lashed into semi- consciousness. The knightly Chaplain of the Invisible Empire then preached a short sermon, advising immediate separation and atonement for their erring ways. To show his boundless benevolence he passed the hat among the vermin present, dumping three dollars and fifty cents on the porch, and left the bloody parents crying in their children's arms.

* * *

Depart In Peace

When the grand jury met Nalls was tipped off and departed. The record fails to show that any effort was ever made by the Circuit Solicitor to have him traced and returned.

7-7-49

One poor woman in Talladega was lashed three times over a period of two years. But her appeals for justice died along with those of Fanny Daniels, the divorced couple and seven hundred others, white, black, old and young, male and female.

The Klan legislature attempted to pass a press muzzling bill sponsored by Gov. Graves, but due to the valiant effort of a few level headed men in the State Senate failed by a narrow margin.

Charlie C. McCall resigned from the Klan on October 19, 1927. Incidentially this was one week after the legislature had dedicated Oct. 12, as fraternal day in honor of the Klan. All other states honor Columbus on Oct. 12, but Alabama is not permitted to do so because he was a "Roman" Catholic.

The former Attorney General made his bid for governor three years later. Knowing that his own had turned against him, he sought the support of the Hanson papers and of Editor Grover C. Hall who had beaten down the Klan, but the erratic character of McCall was against him. The Advertiser threw the powerful pen of its editor behind Judge Miller, who was elected. An embittered McCall took to the stump and resorted to klan vernacular: buzzards vomit from Vanetta Ditch, over the fair City of Montgomery."

All that from a man who held four degrees, — one of them, "Doctor of Legal Diplomacy."

7-7-49

A Fighting Governor

This prattle about the Klan unmasking is so much hogwash. Look through any newspaper files and you will find unmasking announcements have been made regularly from time to time (at least once each year) since 1928.

Alabama may well be thankful that our present governor is unalterably opposed to the Klan. We shouldn't expect too much from Folsom in all other matters. God created Big Jim from the bottom up; he made his feet size 15½, his backbone size 15½, his big heart size 15½, but when the Lord reached the top he grew tired—the brain in Folsom's head is only 6⅞, which is still larger than that of a Klansman.

7-7-49

Let us have no more "dismal days, weeping weeks or hideous months and years of the Klan" in Alabama.

FBI Will Join Drive Against Night Riders

Montgomery Advertiser

Campaigns To Outlaw Masks Are Opened By VFW, Legion

Montgomery, Ala.

Another Birmingham beating by hooded mobsters was revealed last night, and state investigators reported they found a deputy sheriff serving as an armed sentry at a Ku Klux Klan meeting at Adamsville.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation, meanwhile, advised Rep. Laurie Battle (D), Alabama, in Washington that it will cooperate in any campaign against night riders violating constitutional rights of citizens.

Gov. James E. Folsom renewed his attacks on the Klan as "a renegade bunch of hooded cowards," and State Safety Director Bankhead Bates warned persons found guilty of covering automobile license plates can be fined up to $100.

To Outlaw Mask

The commander of Alabama Veterans of Foreign Wars, R. K. Bell, predicted here that his organization will endorse a Senate-passed bill to outlaw masking. It may come up in the House this week.

6-19-49

Dr. E. P. Pruitt, chairman of the board of governors of the Federated Ku Klux Klan, Inc., issued a statement in Birmingham claiming his followers of the fiery cross are innocent of any of the recent incidents in the Birmingham district.

The mob actions have included two floggings, seizure of a grandmother who was made to watch a cross burning, and intimidation of a restaurant operator before a burning cross. All persons involved are white. A crippled miner revealed the second flogging last night, saying hooded men dragged him from bed to witness the beating of a neighbor three weeks ago.

Another Threatened

William Henry Rochester, 42, of nearby Coalburg, Ala., said the hooded group threatened him with the same fate.

Sheriff Holt McDowell said the case had been under investigation since it occurred. He said the man flogged was Bill Hamilton, 39, also of Coalburg.

Rochester, talking with newspapermen, picked up a shotgun by his bedside and said:

"If they come back I will blow as many of them as I can into small bits."

6-19-49

Hamilton could not be reached for a statement.

Rochester said he reported the flogging to Sheriff McDowell, who told "me to keep it a secret; let him handle it."

Account Of Incident

Rochester gave this account of the flogging:

"They put me in an automobile near Hamilton's house. He already was in the car. We drove into the woods, where they shined lights on him, stripped him and gave him about 20 licks with a long belt.

"Then they told me: 'You see that, don't you? That's just a sample—that's just a little bit compared to what we'll do to you if you do just one thing'."

Rochester said the group accused him of failing to support his family. He would not comment on what the mob gave as the reason for the beating of Hamilton.

The deputy sheriff identified at Friday night's Klan meeting surrendered his commission to Sheriff McDowell. He was C. A. (Brownie) Lollar.

State officers said they found Lollar in front of a store in nearby Adamsville Friday night. They said Klansmen — not in robes— were meeting inside.

The investigators were ordered there several days ago by Gov. Folsom after a 31-year-old Navy veteran was flogged. They have been working undercover and and refused to be identified by name.

They also insisted that their faces be obscured in pictures made at the Adamsville meeting. These pictures were taken by an undisclosed photographer using infra-red flash bulbs which make no flash discernable to the naked eye.

6-19-49

Plates Covered

The investigators said they found automobiles parked in front of the Klan meeting place with their license plates covered. This is prohibited by state law.

Gov. Folsom has requested Atty. Gen. Albert A. Carmichael to bring legal proceedings to revoke the charter of any hooded organization.

Answering that, Dr. Pruitt, Birmingham physician and chief of the Federated Ku Klux Klan, said:

"We have not violated any law. We are going to fight for our rights (to a charter)."

Denies Participation

Pruitt denied that the Klan had anything to do with the three recent incidents. The Federated Klan was chartered in probate court in Birmingham July 2, 1946 as a "social, fraternal, religious, elleemosynary, educational, patriotic and philanthropic society."

It pledges "to support the theory and doctrine of the supremacy of the Caucasian race in America." and to "uphold and protect the chastity of all white womanhood."

The state investigators said they went to Adamsville Friday night after receiving a telephoned tip that the Klan there was preparing to ride.

They said Lollar told them:

"If this was county officers, it would be a different story."

Lollar denied saying that and also denied that he was a member of the Klan.

Lollar told reporters he was hired to "watch cars at the meetings." He said he had served as a guard at five such meetings and was paid $5 each time.

Guard Licenses

He said he was instructed not to permit "snoopers" to take down the license tag numbers.

The state investigators questioned Lollar again yesterday, then conferred with Circuit Solicitor Emmett Perry regarding persons whose car tags were covered.

Meanwhile, representatives of a number of veteran, civic, religious and business groups met to start organization of a committee to combat activity of night riders at Birmingham.

The group, to be known as the "Committee of 500," requested officers of all civic groups in the district to meet Wednesday.

The executive committee of the biggest American Legion post in Alabama—Gen. Gorgas Post No. 1—asked all veterans' organizations to join in a drive by ex-servicemen aganist robed gangs.

The committee issued its request after receiving a telephone call from an unidentified person who warned Legion members to "stick to the selling of poppies."

Attorney General Carmichael declined comment yesterday in Washington on what action, if any, he will take against masked organizations.

Carmichael indicated that his position on the Ku Klux Klan and other such organizations is well known, and said he had no statement to make other than one issued several days ago.

At that time he said:

"I have just read about the operations of the Ku Klux Klan in two west Jefferson County neighborhoods. These bums, hoodlums and cut-throats, otherwise known as the Ku Klux Klan, are on the prowl again.

"State authorities are conducting an investigation, . . . I hope at least some of the Ku Klux thugs can be caught and convicted."

Folsom has sent papers of incorporation of one of the hooded groups to the attorney general. He didn't name the organization but said he understood the Federated Ku Klux Klan is incorporated in Jefferson County.

Three Years Ago

The Federated Ku Klux Klans, Inc., filed a charter in Probate Court at Birmingham three years ago. Its incorporators and governors are listed as Dr. Pruitt, Hugh W. Morris and Robert P. Gulledge, Sr., all of Birmingham.

A joint statement was issued by Pruitt and William Hugh Morris, a roofing contractor and director of the Federated Klan.

They said the organization had Klans in every county in Alabama, except in one or two.

Their statement:

"The Federated Ku Klux Klan, Inc., welcome and urge the fair and impartial investigation into the recent night riding activities of unknown persons allegedly masquerading as Klansmen.

Held Blameless

"We feel that any fair investigation stripped of its headline hunters and newspaper hysteria will not only prove our organization, but its members as well, blameless and free of any law violation.

"While the newspapers and some of our renegade politicians are howling for the revocation of the Klan's charter, we note their strange silence on condemning any labor organization for the alleged mob violence committed in Shelby County.

(This was a reference to a raid by an armed mob on a small non-union coal mine last Monday. Four men were roughed up by the raiders who demanded that the mine be shut down. The Shelby County grand jury has been called into special session next Tuesday to investigate the raid.)

"If the scalawag politicians will cease their political propaganda aimed at the hoped for Negro vote in 1952 long enough to prove the Klan condones mob violence, with facts and not propaganda, we will voluntarily surrender our charter.

"However, until such time as this is proven, we feel that we are to be at least entitled to as much consideration as a common criminal.

"We should be presumed to be innocent until proven otherwise."

Here's Ghastly Mob Record

Birmingham News

June, 1948—Masked and hooded men raided a Negro Girl Scout camp in the western part of Jefferson County, warned two white instructors to leave.

March 19, 1949—Ellis Gill, 52-year-old Woodward ore miner in the western part of Jefferson County, was taken from his automobile and flogged by robed men.

May, 1949—Jack Alexander, a tubercular miner of Quintown in the western part of Jefferson County, was taken from his home and whipped by armed, masked and robed men.

May, 1949—William Stevens, of Quintown, Route 1, was taken from his home and lashed by masked and robed men, some of them armed.

May, 1949—Mary Alice Henderson, of Praco, taken from her home and lashed by hooded men who wore masks.

Sat. 7-2-49

May 28—William Hamilton, an Upper Coalburg coal miner, snatched from his home and flogged by masked and robed men.

May 28—William Henry Rochester, Upper Coalburg crippled coal miner, taken from his home and forced to watch while masked men lashed his friend, Bill Hamilton.

June 10—Masked, armed and robed men invaded the home of Mrs. Hugh McDanal, 42-year-old Westwood grandmother. They burned a cross in front of her house.

June 10—Hooded men, armed with pistols and guns, raided a Brookside cafe, threatened the owner, Steve Marshaler.

June 13—Masked men came to the home of William Guyton Stovall, Navy veteran, took him out and flogged him.

Alabama Points The Way

Daily World, Atlanta Ga.

In thirty-five minutes the Alabama Senate passed, and Governor James E. Folsom signed a bill which would unmask the Ku Klux Klan and other hooded organizations in Alabama. Thus Alabama moves ahead, pointing the way for her Southern neighbors. We are indeed happy to see Alabama take this step to protect its citizens from violence in blatant defiance of law and order. We are indeed happy to congratulate the youthful author of the bill, Sen. Henry Mize, and the other public officials in Alabama who made this law possible.

Wed. 6-29-49

Now then, where do we go from here? he The way is clear. Every Southern state should take immediate steps to rid their borders of organizations which spread hate, prejudice and bigotry. Georgia, Florida, Mississippi, Arkansas, South Carolina should pass laws unfrocking the Klan. Alabama should follow this signal victory by adopting the advice of their Attorney General, Albert Carmichael, who is urging immediate passage of a separate law to revoke the Klan charter.

Daily World, Atlanta, Ga.

It is unfortunate, however, that Alabama was only forced to act when the violence and lawlessness turned upon white citizens. Too late did they see the truth in the statement that "None of us is safe until we are all safe." Too late did Alabamians realize that prejudice and bigotry and hate against people, same react eventually against all.

All people must be protected against violence in defiance of law and order. Alabama points in the right direction. The remainder of the "Solid South" must follow.

Enforcement Comes First

As another week of intense public feeling and highly significant activities comes to an end, some recapitulation of the situation respecting masked and unmasked lawlessness in this area may be useful.

The activation of powerful public sentiment against gang violence is an outstanding aspect of the trend of developments.

Official moves to uphold and enforce the law are multiplying.

These two great forces—public opinion and public authority—have provided much reassurance following an extended period of relative apathy and inaction regarding disturbing developments, including law violations.

But, of course, it would be very dangerous to assume that the situation is now well in hand and that good citizens can dismiss such disagreeable business from their minds.

The people must sustain their demand for law enforcement, for the finding and the punishment of the guilty, for the strengthening of the law itself in whatever way may be necessary to wipe out hooded intimidation and violence.

In Birmingham a widely representative citizens committee is now functioning to sustain such a demand.

There have been indications that the Jefferson County Grand Jury soon may hear evidence in this connection. Not yet, of course, have any arrests been made in this county for hooded violations of the law.

Until it is definitely established that such things will lead to arrest and prosecution our people will continue lacking in a fundamental essential to their sense of security.

In Shelby County indictments and arrests have come in connection with the mob invasion of the property of the Cahaba Coal Mining Company. It is such functioning of the law that is awaited in the hooded outrages in this area.

In Washington yesterday Atty. Gen. Tom Clark ordered a field investigation by the Justice Department of masked violence in this area. It will be remembered that Sheriff McDowell asked FBI aid in investigation. Mr. Clark said he had instructed the FBI to investigate activities in the Brookside area. Evidently it will be centered on the cases in which a woman was maltreated at her home and a restaurant keeper was warned.

This development provides another underscoring of the importance of effective local action in enforcing the law and punishing mobsters.

A House judiciary subcommittee evidently is going forward with its inquiry into the Alabama situation. Rep. Celler, the chairman of the full committee, has met protests against such an investigation with assurance that "we won't harm anything worth while." Certain civil rights legislation is pending before the committee. Southern sentiment is strongly against this legislation. Consequently objection to such an inquiry will be widespread and concern will be keen that this move may play into the hands of hooded elements and tend to divert and divide attention and effort.

It is the law in effective action that comes first now.

ALABAMA INDICTS 17 IN INQUIRY ON KLAN

Grand Jury Acts on Floggings and Hooded Night Riders in Birmingham Area

By the United Press.

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., July 9—Seventeen persons were indicted today by a grand jury investigating mob violence by hooded men in the Birmingham area. A total of forty-four indictments was returned, naming some of the alleged nightriders in one incident after another.

Flogging accounted for twenty-eight of the charges, boycotting for eight, burglary for six, carnal knowledge for another, and there were two counts of misdemeanors.

The names of those indicted will not be disclosed until they are arrested, and that will not be until Monday at the earliest. Judge Robert Wheeler, saying "I'm tired and I want to go home," announced that he would not sign warrants until then.

There was indication that the inquiry would continue under a new grand jury to be impaneled Monday. It will keep trying to obtain a list of members of the Ku Klux Klan in Alabama, denied the outgoing jury by a Klan leader who was jailed for contempt of court.

Judge Wheeler was asked to release the man, William Hugh Morris, but the state protested that he should not be allowed bail until he brought in the roster.

Finally, however, Judge Wheeler allowed Morris to go free for the week-end under $500 bail, but warned he would order him back to a cell—where he was put Thursday—if he did not produce the membership list.

The jury acted after a week of hearing victims of alleged floggings and intimidation, and leaders of the Federated Ku K'ux Klans of Alabama. Circuit Solicitor Emmett Perry declared that the investigation "has just begun."

Jury Foreman John S. Thornton said that indictments were returned in every case "where there was sufficient evidence." Two "no bills," clearing suspects whose names were withheld, also were reported. The jury present[ment] urged that the investigation be continued "and augmented" by the next grand jury, and expressed gratification that law officers were getting "increased cooperation" from victims.

During the investigation several high Ku Klux Klan officials in Alabama were brought in to testify, including Dr. J. E. Pruitt, chairman of the Board of Governors.

Klan Offered Reward

The Klan had offered a $500 reward for proof that any of its members were responsible for the violence.

State Attorney General A. A. Carmichael, who assisted Mr. Perry in directing the grand jury investigation, asked Judge Wheeler to poll the eighteen-man jury to see if any Klansmen were on it. All denied they were members of the Klan.

The grand jury action came as a result of pressure from civic officials, veterans' groups, newspapers, Gov. James E. Folsom, the Attorney General's office and the Jefferson County Solicitor's office.

This pressure also was partly responsible for the State Legislature passing a law banning the wearing of masks in Alabama. So far there have been no confirmed reports of the law's violation.

Robed Mob Flogs Alabama Vet--Klan Denies Incidents

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., June 15. (AP)—A white-robed mob dragged a Navy veteran from his home last midnight and lashed him 20 times with a leather belt.

Their victim was Billy Guyton Stovall, 31, white pipe plant employee, described by neighbors as a good husband and father.

The flogging of Stovall was the third outbreak involving robed mobs in the Birmingham area within a week.

A woman was manhandled and forced to watch a cross burning, and a restaurant operator made to watch a cross burning last Friday night. Both are whites.

KLAN DENIAL

Dr. E. P. Pruitt, head of the Ku Klux Klan in Alabama, flatly denied the Klan had any part in the three incidents.

Stovall and his two children, Jimmy, 10, and Elaine, 8, were at home at 11:30 last night when a robed figure knocked on the door.

Jimmy gave this account:

"The man said *'this is Stuart. I want to see you.'* Then he grabbed my daddy and pulled him out the door."

Stovall returned at 1:30 a.m. His wife said he had been taken to a wooded area and struck 20 times with a heavy leather belt. His back, she said, was covered with welts.

"The only reason they gave me is that I left my children at home alone," Stovall said in an interview tonight. He denied the charge.

The Navy veteran said a report that the men accused him of failing to support his family is not true.

"I'm getting a gun and I know how to use it," he said.

Pastor Says Klan Warned Of Whipping

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—(AP)—A Methodist Minister who uncovered a series of East Alabama floggings said yesterday he had been warned he was on "the whipping list."

He is the Rev. Luther Brown, Pastor of the Millersville Methodist Church, 80 miles east of here. He told State officers the warning was given him Friday night at prayer meeting there.

Bankhead Bates, Director of the State Patrol, assigned men to investigate the threat to the minister.

Brown said he was told "you are pretty close to the top of the whipping list." He did not give other details to newsmen.

He and another Methodist minister, the Rev. Frank Ledford, of Ashland, revealed a series of acts of mob violence by robed and hooded men in Clay County after a private investigation.

The Rev. Ledford announced his sermon topic today would be "Christ or the Klan."

Ku Klux Klan officials have repeatedly denied that any of their members have been involved in floggings or other law violations.

In another part of the State, a disabled war veteran said he was flogged by a hooded mob the day after the State Legislature passed a law to ban the wearing of masks in Alabama.

John Thomas Franks, 34, told newsmen he was flogged last Wednesday night near his home in the little community of Boston, 90 miles northwest of Birmingham.

This was the first report of mob violence in Marion County.

Franks said two men dragged him from his home. His wife and two children were asleep.

The men, joined by about 10 others, took him to a wooded area and lashed him about 20 times, he continued. He showed newsmen partially healed lash wounds.

Franks said the masked men accused him of drinking and staying away from home. He denied it.

State investigators were requested to investigate the flogging. Marion County Sheriff Dewey Lloyd could not be reached for comment.

Franks, who said he draws disability pay from the Government for wartime wounds, works part time in a small coal mine.

A Jefferson County (Birmingham) grand jury is investigating a series of floggings, cross burnings and threats in this area.

Five floggings also were uncovered this week in rural Clay County in East Alabama by two ministers making a private investigation.

Other lashings by white-sheeted night riders have been reported in Walker County, which lies between Jefferson and Marion Counties.

A state officer Friday night investigated reports of attempted intimidation of a woman who testified before the grand jury here Friday. The officer declined comment.

Robed Mob Lashes Vet In Alabama

Constitution
Atlanta, Ga.
Thu. 6-16-49

Birmingham Man Dragged From Home, Beaten With Belt

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—(AP) A white-robed mob dragged a Navy veteran from his home Tuesday midnight and lashed him 20 times with a leather belt.

Their victim was Billy Guyton Stovall, 31, white pipe plant employee described by neighbors as a good husband and father.

The flogging of Stovall was the third outbreak involving robed mobs in the Birmingham area within a week. A woman was manhandled and forced to watch a cross burning, and a restaurant operator made to watch a cross burning last Friday night. Both are whites.

Dr. E. P. Pruitt, head of the Ku

Judge J. M. C. "Red" Townsend, of the Georgia Court of Appeals, Tuesday warned Americans they were in danger of losing their liberty to the Ku Klux Klan—"hooded mobsters."

Klux Klan in Alabama, flatly denied the Klan had any part in the three incidents.

Stovall and his two children, Jimmy, 10, and Elaine, 8, were at home at 11:30 Tuesday night when a robed figure knocked on the door.

Jimmy gave this account:

"The man said 'This is Stuart. I want to see you.' Then he grabbed my Daddy and pulled him out the door."

Another robed and hooded man "with holes cut to see through," came into the house and asked for Mrs. Stovall. She was at work.

"He told me for us (Jimmy and Elaine) to 'go to your neighbor's house if you get scared'."

Mrs. Stovall returned to the house at 12:30 a. m. She said the door was open and Jimmy told her "the Ku Klux came and got daddy."

She called police and notified the sheriff's office. Two sheriff's deputies and three State patrolmen arrived an hour later.

Stovall returned at 1:30 a. m. His wife said he had been taken to a wooded area and struck 20 times with a heavy leather belt. His back, she said, was covered with welts. Thu. 6-16-49

Mrs. Stovall said also that the men warned Stovall not to "tell the newspapers, or we'll be back."

She could give no reason for the attack. Stovall would not discuss the case with reporters.

Dr. Pruitt said the Klan "had nothing to do with this or any other act of mob violence." He is President of the Federated Ku Klux Klan, Inc., of Alabama.

Persons blaming the Klan for recent "acts of hoodlumism" in the Birmingham area "are infernal liars," Pruitt said.

"The Klan stands for law and order," he added.

Klan activity in Alabama and other nearby states has been increasing in recent months. Robed and hooded men paraded past the office of the Tuscaloosa News, 60 miles southwest, Saturday night. The News had printed a series of stories on Klan meetings there.

In Georgia, the Klan initiated new members and burned a cross atop Stone Mountain, near Atlanta, Tuesday night. Thu. 6-16-49

Dr. Samuel Green, Grand Dragon, told the Klansmen:

"God himself segregated the races. There is no law that can be passed by President Truman which can ever surpass God's Law."

The Constitution
Atlanta, Ga.
Thu. 6-16-49

Associated Press Wirephoto

TELL OF RAID—Mrs. B. G. Stovall and her two children, Jimmy, 10, left, and Elaine, 8, right, tell of the mob which flogged their husband and father, a Navy veteran.

THE "SHEETED JERKS" OF THE KU KLUX KLAN, as Governor Fuller Warren of Florida has called them, seem to have overplayed their hand in recent weeks. In the region surrounding Birmingham, Alabama, after a decade and a half of quiescence, the night riders have come up from under their flat rocks and roamed the countryside, flogging and terrifying a number of citizens, including women, for alleged violations of the Klan's "moral code." For some reason all the victims have been whites, including one navy veteran. This has been too much for the people in and around Birmingham and for Alabamans generally. The state American Legion is aroused and determined to "put an end to lawlessness"; volunteer groups are forming to fight the hooded raiders on their own strong-armed terms; and, most important, the state legislature is on the verge of driving through a bill outlawing masked organizations. At the same time there is as usual strong objection in Alabama to any suggested federal corrective. Since the local anger appears to be genuine, there is for once some justification for the plea to "let us handle this ourselves." Unfortunately, however, the Klan is not confined to Alabama. The "official" Klan, in fact, has been established by Dr. Samuel J. Green in Atlanta, Georgia, and there are outcroppings in Mississippi, Florida, and elsewhere. In many communities the best Klansmen are the sheriff's deputies. Despite their recent assaults on whites, what the "sheeted jerks" really stand for is made clear in Roi Ottley's remarkable interview with Dr. Green, Grand Dragon of the Associated Klans of Georgia, which appears on page 10 of this issue.

Sat. 7-2-49

Klan records to an earlier grand jury. The state supreme court today refused to review Morris' case.

Judge Reveals Ex-Klansman Is Member Of Jefferson Jury

Advertiser
Montgomery, Ala.

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., July 15—(AP)—The grand jury investigating mob violence in this area includes a former Klansman, Judge George Lewis Bailes revealed today.

The judge said Alexander Brewis of Mt. Olive, Ala., had been excused from considering any case which might affect the Ku Klux Klan.

Another juror, the judge also revealed, had been excused from all cases, as disqualified by a court conviction several years ago. Sat. 7-16-49

Brewis was excused by the jury foreman, Judge Bailes said.

After this development, the jury requested that "each and every member" of the jury be investigated for possible disqualifications under state law.

The request was made in a partial report to Judge Bailes.

Both the judge and Solicitor Emmett Perry said these developments would not hamper investigation of masked mobs. Under regulations covering grand juries, 12 men make a quorum and may return an indictment.

Since a full jury has 18 members, this jury has 16 left without Brewis. On all but KKK cases, Brewis still will serve.

Brewis declined to discuss whether he is a member of the Klan with newsmen today. "I just don't want to talk about it," he said.

The jury was charged Monday by Judge Bailes to look into "this business of night riders taking people out and whipping them." 7-16-49

Judge Bailes did not mention the Klan by name. One of the first witnesses before the jury, however, was William Hugh Morris, Birmingham roofing contractor who is director of the Federated Ku Klux Klans, Inc.

Morris is on his second week in jail on a contempt of court citation. He refused to reveal

SEEING AND SAYING

BY WILLIAM A. FOWLKES

The World, Atlanta

Clark Acts

Sun. 6-26-49

Liberals in the South must have been encoura... ...riday by the announcement that Attorney General Tom Clar... ordered a full field investigation by the Justice departme... ...o recent night rider violence in Alabama.

Simultaneously, a congressional committee ordered public hearings on floggings in our sister state.

Mr. W. A. Fowlkes

Despite objections by Southerners, who consistently want to keep "their business" to themselves, there is to be noted some progress in the development of real American democracy here. Though the probe is a long-time coming, in the light of lynchings and brutalities to both whites and Negroes in the South, it is welcome. The nation will learn a little more about the mentality of those who have organized brutality and disorder. Perhaps an anti-lynch law will follow. The time is ripe.

—O—

The North Georgia Conference of the Methodist Church, meeting in Atlanta last week, called for anti-lynching legislation and condemned "the use of the cross as a symbol of terror."

Significantly the Southern, sectional church group referred to the special responsibility of the church to "speak out for justice and brotherhood."

The group joined the growing list of courageous churchmen willing to be quoted and to be cited as working against homefront subversiveness. Bravo!

—O—

St. Louis, Missouri, and Martin's Ferry, Ohio, last week saw outbreaks of violence as the result of extending the Negro's citizenship to include full participation in municipally-owned swimming pools. Police attributed most of the trouble to teen-agers. The spirit of the rebel yell lives on despite the almost completely dwindled ranks of those who fought for slavery. Perhaps an investigation of textbooks and teaching by some un-American activities committee is needed after all!

Sun. 6-26-49

Joseph M. Goldwasser's talk with KKK Grand Dragon Samuel Green didn't bring out anything spectacular. There was the somewhat ironical statement by the latter that KKK neither hates nor harms anyone. Savvy?

—O—

The seepage of a natural feeling for American equality continues to make its most formidable appearance in Virginia and North Carolina. At the state convention of the North Carolina NAACP, delegates called for elimination of discrimination and segregation in the state school system and passage of a fair employment practices law by the state legislature.

We are letting it be known that Negro Americans want to be Americans by every standard. And, why not?

The World Atlanta, Ga.

—O—

Large industry in the United States is gradually getting around to including Negroes in public relations and managerial posts. It may be industry's move to thwart a Federal FEPC, which will finally be adopted, despite the blockades. Leon H. Hardwick, well known newspaperman and publicist, is the latest addition to the growing army. He joined Carnation milk.

Sun. 6-26-49

There are hundreds of other companies whose products find favor and use in American Negro homes. They, too, need to formally recognize the Negro field with employment in higher, as well as lower, brackets.

WOMAN TERRORIZED

Hooded Band Afoot in Alabama

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — (AP) — Robed night riders dragged a 42-year-old white woman from her home. In the eerie light of a burning six-foot cross they threatened to burn her at a stake.

Mrs. Hugh McDanal, who related her harrowing experience to police, said the men, two holding pistols, smashed a glass pane in the front door of her home and charged in.

The Press

ONE STRUCK her on the head twice, and another snatched an unloaded shotgun from her hands.

Detroit, Mich

She broke free and jumped from one man to the next, lifting their hoods to see if she recognized any. They grabbed her again.

"We could kill you for that," she quoted them as saying.

Mrs. McDanal was at home alone when the men came. Her husband was at work. She said the men first knocked and called out "we want you." She said she grabbed up a shotgun, but dropped the shells in trying to load it.

* * 6-12-49

ONE OF THE men said neighbors had complained that her home was being used "to bring men and women together, and to sell whisky." She denied it.

Before leaving Mrs. McDanal, the men told her:

"We're going to leave you here now. If we hear anything else, we'll be back to bomb your house—or burn it down, and we'll be back to see you."

Mrs. McDanal blamed the incident on a neighborhood grudge.

They dragged her to the front lawn, where a six-foot cross was burning. There, she said, they threatened to burn her at a stake and "to string her up."

Sun. 6-12-49

MRS. McDANAL told the men that police had been called. One answered with a laugh: "We're the law ourselves."

Sheriff's deputies arrived about an hour after the men left, she said.

Another robed gang or the same one jammed into a cafe in a near-by community and threatened the white owner.

They warned him against serving Negro customers.

Witnesses said the gang of hooded and white-robed men, numbering about 60, came to the cafe in 16 cars.

Looking at the South

Today's Klan Instills Little Fear

The Star, Washington, D.C.

By Hodding Carter

A QUARTER of a century ago, the Ku Klux Klan was an ominously powerful force not only in the South but in much of the rest of the country.

The Klan had enrolled hundreds of thousands of members. Some of them were simple deluded men who were the victims of their own antipathies or their own concern with imagined threats to the social order. Some were rank bigots for whom the mask and the lash provided cowardly outlets for their racial and religious hatreds. Some, notably the organizers and leaders, were simply predatory rascals who knew a good thing when they saw it, or opportunistic politicians who could count noses even when they were covered with sheets.

Together they composed a formidable and evil force. The Klan was politically powerful. In its name, men were hounded, beaten, even murdered. A great deal of courage was required to stand up to and defeat its shadowy menace, for the reaction against nightshirted hoodlumism was late in starting. The Klan was well entrenched when the American people woke up to its menace. But it was defeated.

Notable Differences

THAT was 25 years ago. Today, the Klan spirit again defies decency. Sloshing over like an overful cesspool from its Georgia stronghold, its poison has spread to adjacent areas in Alabama, Tennessee, South Carolina and Florida, contaminating men's minds and endangering men's liberties. But there are notable differences between the situation today and that of 25 years ago and the South and the Nation can find reassurance in them.

The Past

The most salutary difference is that the public today has neither the respect for nor fear of the Klan which was demonstrated 25 years ago. Except in some isolated areas the Klan does not have the political strength it once possessed. Decent men are more ready to fight against it, whether with weapons or through the force of law. Most of the political leaders in the South—with the exceptions confined principly to Georgia—are shunning its indorsement and condemning its activities.

Sun. 7-10-49

And the South as a whole realizes that local and State governments must defeat the sheeted mob if the principle and the actuality of State responsibility for the individual's security are to be maintained.

The Southern brief for the State's policing rights will become completely meaningless if the Klan is not curbed by vigorous State prosecution, by anti-mask legislation and by local public opinion. The Alabama Senate's prompt passage of anti-mask law by a 23 to 3 vote is an indication of a purposefulness that was not recognizable 25 years ago. But State law must be backed up by State police action.

Entitled to Protection

THE only alternative is Federal. It is not needed now, it should not be needed, but the citizen in his home has a right to protection by government. If it cannot be provided in the community, the responsibility devolves upon the State. If the State refuses or is powerless, the central government must act.

Washington D.C.

Otherwise, anarchy replaces order, offense is answered by retaliation and the threatened citizen must wait in the lonely darkness to fight off as best he can the night-riders who come to harm him.

A democratic society cannot permit the midnight knock upon the door. It cannot tolerate extra-legal policing of public morals. By whatever legal means are necessary, that society is obligated to intervene. If the four Southern States in which the Klan canker festers cannot protect their citizens from organized terror, the Nation must become the protective force. But the time for such decision must await the test that is imminent within the infected States.

All Over City, Groups Mobilize For Finish Fight On Mobsters

'Committee Of 500' Talked For Support Of Law, Order

In every corner of the Birmingham district, civic groups were being mobilized Sunday for the suppression of mob violence.

Telephone messages have gone out to a number of heads of civic organizations asking them to attend a meeting in the courthouse at 4 p.m. Wednesday looking toward formation of a "Committee of 500" for the support of law and order in this area.

The Wednesday session was scheduled with the knowledge that the Alabama House of Representatives will take action on the Mize anti-masking bill on Tuesday.

The Alabama Senate approved the measure Friday after a stormy session. Hopes are bright for House passage of the measure, which would bar use of the mask in public, by the Ku Klux Klan or any other organization.

* * *

More Telegrams

MONDAY TELEGRAMS will be sent to presidents of even more civic groups asking them to attend the Wednesday meeting. The telegrams will bear the name of the Citizens Voluntary Committee, which was set up Saturday by a number of leading civic, religious, educational and business men of this community.

Cooperating in the movement to set up a "Committee of 500" is General Gorgas Post No. 1, American Legion.

General Gorgas Post's executive committee touched off a growing demand for concrete action to halt the spreading spirit of lawlessness in Jefferson and surrounding counties when the committee this past week adopted a resolution asking Sheriff Holt McDowell to make arrests of those responsible for recent acts of violence here.

The Saturday meeting of leading Birmingham citizens endorsed the "spirit and purpose" of the Gorgas resolution.

* * *

Pastor To Lead

DR. JOHN H. BUCHANAN, pastor of Southside Baptist Church, was named temporary chairman of a steering committee which will serve as a nucleus for the projected "Committee of 500."

Other members of the committee are Frank Yeilding, president of the Birmingham Kiwanis Club; Mrs. L. S. Evins, president of the Council of Church Women; Dr. Dale LeCount, pastor of Sixth Avenue Presbyterian Church; James E. Mills, editor of The Birmingham Post, and Maj. Gen. John C. Persons, president of the First National Bank of Birmingham.

Speakers at the Saturday meeting said the proposed "Committee of 500" could serve as a law-and-order body not only where violence by hooded, robed bands was noted but also where invasions by any mobs might occur.

Just what action will be open to the proposed committee is expected to be developed at the Wednesday meeting in the courthouse.

More Veterans

MEANWHILE, MEMBERS OF the General Gorgas Post executive committe were lining up other veterans' organizations in the Birmingham district with the view of forming a veterans' "Committee Against Crime and Violence."

The veterans' committee is looking for support from American Legion posts throughout Jefferson County, the Disabled American Veterans, American Veterans of World War II, Jewish War Veterans and Veterans of Foreign Wars.

A committee from General Gorgas Post will serve on Sheriff McDowell on Monday a copy of the resolution adopted by its executive committee, pointing out that the sheriff's office "has failed or refused" to make a single arrest as yet in the acts of violence which already have occurred in Jefferson County.

* * *

'No Comment'

MEANWHILE, IN WASHINGTON, Alabama Atty. Gen. A. A. Carmichael declined comment Saturday on what action, if any, he will take against masked organizations.

He has been requested by Gov. Folsom to take legal steps to revoke the charters of any such groups operating under Alabama laws.

Carmichael indicated that his position on the Ku Klux Klan and other such organizations is well known. He said he had no statement to make other than one issued several days ago.

At that time he issued this statement:

"I have just read about the operations of the Ku Klux Klan in two West Jefferson County neighborhoods. These bums, hoodlums and cut-throats, otherwise known as the Ku Klux Klan, are on the prowl again.

"State authorities are conducting an investigation. . . . I hope at least some of the Ku Klux thugs can be caught and convicted."

Gov. Folsom called a news conference yesterday before the Senate approved a bill to outlaw wearing of masks in public to announce his plans to take legal action against the Klan.

He said he was sending papers of incorporation of one of the hooded groups to the attorney general. He didn't name the organization but said he understood the Federated Ku Klux Klan is incorporated in Jefferson County.

'Enemies Of America'

WASHINGTON, June 20—(AP)—Rep. Boggs, (D) Louisiana, told the House today he is "alarmed and distressed" at the "actions of hooded mobsters in Alabama."

"Hoodlums are the enemies of America and the enemies of the South," he said.

He congratulated Alabama's governor and others in the state who are trying to put an end to such activity.

B'ham Newsman Beaten While Checking Activities Of Hooded, Robed Mobs

Quick Action By Sheriff Demanded

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., June 20—(AP)— A reporter was beaten up today while on an assignment to investigate activities of hooded and robed mobs.

The reporter, Clarke Stallworth of The Birmingham Post, said he was roughed up by two men at a filling station-general store in the nearby mining community of Sunmiton. He was not hurt seriously.

Several floggings have been reported in the area recently.

Stallworth told Walker County Judge P. E. Day at Jasper he was "decoyed" into the store.

Two Warrants Issued

Judge Day issued two warrants. One named Roscoe Fowler, Sumiton, and charged assault and battery.

The other, a "John Doe" warrant, charged assault and battery and assault with a weapon. "John Doe" warrants are issued when the name of the person charged is not known. Bond was fixed at $300 in each.

Stallworth said he had gone to the store on a tip from a woman that a man there could give him some information on activities of night riders in the area.

Reporter Flees From Store

He declined to say what he asked Fowler, but quoted Fowler as answering:

"Call me a Klan, will you, you S.O.B."

Stallworth said Fowler then struck him. He said he wrestled free and ran from the store.

Deputy Sheriff A. A. Lowery quoted Stallworth as saying as he ran from the store, a second man picked up a hammer and threw it at him but missed.

The reporter left his car at the store and caught a bus in route to Birmingham. On the way, he saw a highway patrol car and flagged it down.

He rode back to Sumiton in the patrol car, got his automobile and drove to Jasper with the patrol car leading the way.

Legion Demands Action

Meanwhile, a delegation of American Legion members today demanded in a sharply worded resolution presented to Sheriff Holt McDowell of Jefferson (Birmingham) County that he take immediate action to halt mob violence in the district.

The Legionnaires charged that, despite numerous "crimes and acts of violence" by white-robed gangs recently, not one person has been arrested. The sheriff answered he was doing all in his power.

Civic leaders of Birmingham scheduled a meeting Monday to organize a "Committee of 500" to fight night-riding activity.

Near Where Widow Beaten

Sumiton, where Stallworth was beaten up, is near Dora, Ala., scene of a recent incident in which a 38-year-old widow and two men were flogged. Two of the woman's daughters, 18 and 16 years old, were threatened and forced to watch the floggings.

Stallworth, 23 and unmarried, had been working on the Post for the past nine months. He is a native of Thomaston, Ala., a Navy veteran, and had attended the University of North Carolina.

The Federated Ku Klux Klan today offered a $500 reward for positive evidence that any of its Klans joined in the mob violence. The offer was announced by Dr. E. P. Pruitt, Birmingham physician and chairman of the Federated Klan's board of governors.

Here's How You Can Trap Hoods

B-ham News

Birmingham, Ala.

You Need Not Give Your Name; Just Use Code Numbers, Letters

Jun. 6-26-49 (3)

Who flogged Bill Guyton Stovall?

Who were the masked men who entered the Navy veteran's home in the dark of night? Who seized him in front of his young son and daughter, and took him into the woods—and there stripped him and lashed him?

The men wore masks.

Maybe you know something that may lead to the arrest and conviction of these men.

If you can supply information leading to the arrest and conviction of the night riders who lashed Billy Stovall—or any other information about illegal floggings in Jefferson County—you can share in the reward pot of General Gorgas Post No. 1 of the American Legion.

The reward fund now amounts to $1,750.

The fund is growing daily.

You can serve the ends of justice—help restore law and order to your county—by giving information about the floggers and hooded men.

And you can share in the reward if your information is helpful in bringing these men to justice.

6-26-49

Protection Promised

A way has been devised to protect the identity of any person giving information on masked floggers.

It is an idea borrowed from The Chicago Sun-Times, where several important murder cases were broken by persons who gave information, but whose identity was kept secret.

If you have any scrap of information that may throw light on the night riders and floggers—you can offer the information without fear of reprisal. Your name will not become known, not even to the General Gorgas Committee or the investigators.

Other than yourself, your name will not be known to a single person!

Here's how it works:

Write your information on a sheet or sheets of paper.

Give as much detail as you can—anything that can be checked carefully by investigators.

You may write it, print it, or use a typewriter.

* * *

Name Not Needed

DON'T SIGN YOUR NAME.

When you write your information, you should mark the last sheet of paper at the righthand corner with scrambled numbers, and three letters of the alphabet.

Take any seven of these numbers, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9.

Scramble these numbers at random, using seven numbers.

Something like this: 2917683. Then add any three letters of the alphabet like this: AXZ.

Don't use the combination printed above. Scramble up your own seven numbers and three letters of the alphabet.

Print with pen or pencil or typewriter your own scrambled numbers and letters twice on the sheet of information.

Print your scrambled numbers and letters at the top of the sheet.

6-26-49

Then print the same scrambled numbers and the scrambled three letters of the alphabet at one of the four corners of the sheet of paper.

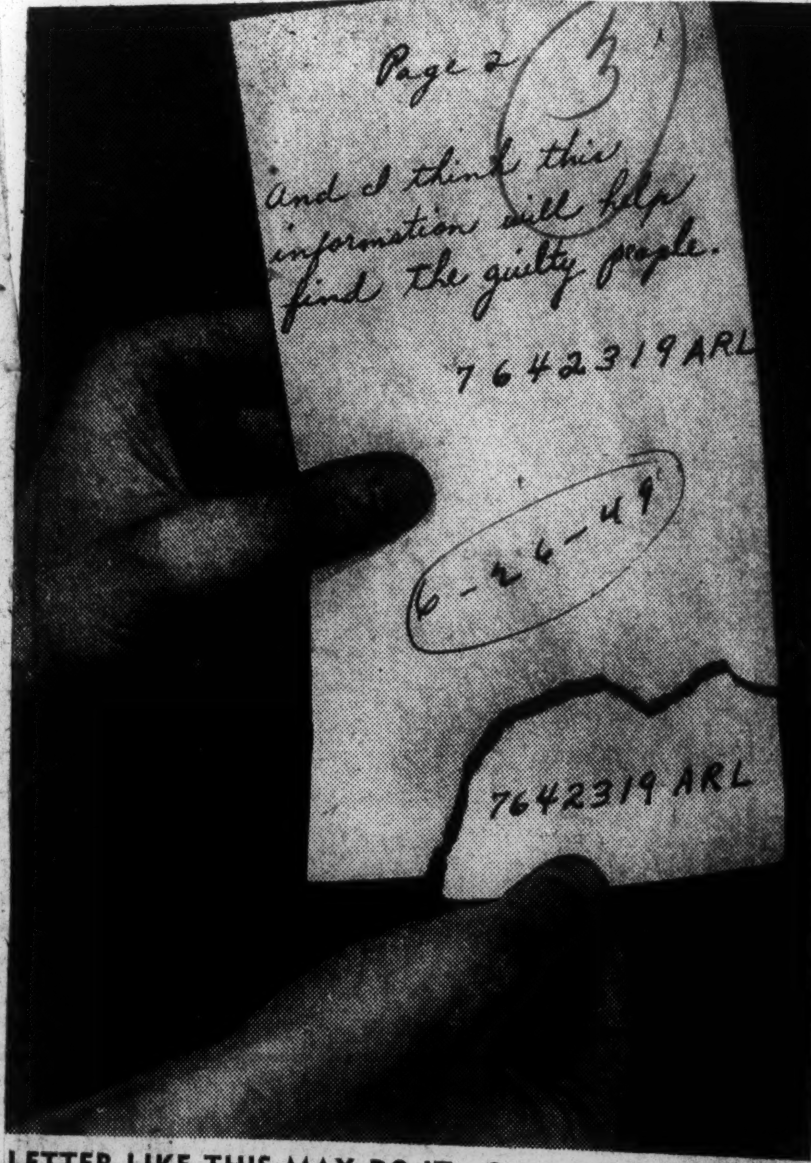
You tear off the numbers on the corner of the sheet.

* * *

Mail Information

THIS TORN CORNER WILL BE your proof that you are entitled to a reward if your information leads to arrest and conviction and a share of the reward fund.

Hide your scarp of paper containing the numbers.



LETTER LIKE THIS MAY DO IT—Somewhere in Jefferson County are men and women who know something that will help bring masked floggers to justice. Here's the way secret informants can give information — and protect their identities.

Note the scrambled numbers and letters as the secret signature—and the torn corner, bearing the same combination of numbers and letters.

The sender of the information keeps the torn corner, bearing the numbers, sends the other sheet to "Special Informant," P. O. Box No. 2553. If he comes in for a reward the combination numbers and the torn edges must fit when he receives the reward.

Jefferson Grand Jury Called To Special Session On Ku Klux Activities

Advertiser

Montgomery, Ala.

(3)

Action Is Ordered As Newspaperman Warns Of Jeopardizing Probe; Sam Hobbs 'Amused' At Hearing

June 6-30-49

The Jefferson County grand jury has been called into special session tomorrow to investigate Klan activities.

At the same time in Washington, a Southern newspaperman warned a House committee that the investigation would be jeopardized if the committee pressed its inquiry into Alabama floggings.

The warning was given by Clancy E. Lake, Birmingham News reporter, who testified with two other Alabama newsmen before a civl rights subcommittee.

'Lots of Things Harmful'

"There's a lot of things harmful to bring out in this hearing while the Jefferson grand jury is still at work," he said.

Lake did not amplify his remark. 6-30-49

In Birmingham, County Solicitor Emmett Perry said the jury will receive "evidence gathered by law enforcement officers of the county and state who have been working on recent reports of mob violence."

Rep. Sam Hobbs (D.), Alabama, said the congressional committee's investigation "accomplished nothing other than to make the people of the nation prouder of Alabama."

"It was very amusing," he said.

Not Investigating

Hobbs is a member of the House judiciary committee but not on the subcommittee which did the investigating.

And in Mobile, a 31-year-old cabinet maker testified in Recorder's Court that he had been flogged by three men who held a pistol on him.

Astor W. Bodden said the three men struck him several times with a heavy leather belt during a fight at his shop. He displayed huge welts on his face and body.

Three Are Charged

Folowing the preliminary hearing, State Solicitor Carl M. Booth filed assault and battery charges against John H. Nettles, Sr., 48, and his two sons, John, Jr., 23, and Joe Nettles, 18. Bodden said the attack resulted from a family

argument.

Booth declared at the hearing that while the flogging was not of the "hooded type" it was just as serious.

"Conduct of this type will not be tolerated in this country," he said.

Klan Cleared for Dothan

A nine-foot cross was burned near Dothan Tuesday night. Investigating officers reported yesterday the Klan was not involved.

Chief Deputy Sheriff Eldridge Cameron and Deputy Lawrence Horne said the cross was burned at the home of former County Commissioner J. Willie Varnum. Cameron said three teen-age youths admitted they built and burned the cross.

The deputy quoted the youths as saying they did it because Varnum "welched on a bet" he made with one of the youths last week. The youths told officers Varnum joined the two older boys in making a $5 bet with the youngest that he would not sleep in a country church. 6-30-49

Limitation Proposed

In another Birmingham development, the County Personnel (Civil Service) Board took under advisement a proposal that all applicants for city and county jobs be required to sign a sworn statement they are not and never have been members of a hooded or subversive organization.

This proposal was made to the board by the Organized Veterans Committee Against Crime and Violence.

Personnel Board members said they were uncertain whether they could deny employment to a member of the Ku Klux Klan, since that organization is legally chartered under the laws of Alabama.

Solicitor Perry has urged that the legislature revoke the Klan's charter by resolution. Gov. James E. Folsom also has directed State Atty. Gen. Albert A. Carmichael to start legal proceedings to revoke the Klan charter, issued in 1947.

Members of the Personnel Board said any Civil Service employe convicted of taking part in mob violence would be dismissed immediately.

Mobile Man Flogged; Three Men Arrested

The News

MOBILE, Ala., June 29—(AP)—A 31-year-old Mobile cabinet maker testified in Recorders Court today he had been flogged by three men who held a pistol on him.

Astor W Bodden said the three men struck him several times with a heavy leather belt during a fight at his shop last night. He displayed huge welps on his face and body. Birmingham Ala.

FOLLOWING THE PRELIMINARY HEARING, State Solicitor Carl M. Booth filed assault and battery charges against John H. Nettles, Sr., 48, and his two sons, John, Jr., 23, and Joe Nettles, 18.

Bodde nsaid the attack resulted from a family argument. Bodden's wife is a sister of the wife of John Nettles, Jr. Wed.

Booth declared at the hearing that while the flogging was not of the "hooded type" it was just as serious. 6-29-49

"Conduct of this type will not be tolerated in this county," he said.

2 U. S. Probes Are Ordered in Hooded Terror

The Post — Washington D.C. — Sat. 6-25-49

FBI Goes into Action; Southerners Protest House Unit Hearings

By Marshall Andrews
Post Reporter

Two investigations of terrorism by hooded nightriders in Alabama were ordered her yesterday.

Attorney General Clark, after a preliminary check by the FBI, told his department's crime-busting agency to go ahead with a full field probe. On the basis of the partial check, Clark said Ku Klux Klan members "purportedly" were involved and that twice local law enforcement officers "reportedly" had failed to protect victims.

A House Judiciary Subcommittee headed by Representative Byrne (D., N. Y.) announced it would open hearings Wednesday on the reign of terror near Birmingham, Ala. The committee said its first witness would be Clark Stallworth, a Birmingham Post reporter, who was assaulted when working on the case for his newspaper. Sat. 6-25-49

The House investigation, ordered by Chairman Celler (D., N. Y.) of the Judiciary Committee, brought protests from Southern Representatives.

Representative Battle, Alabama Democrat in whose Jefferson County district the series of beatings and cross-burnings took place, said "any Federal exploitation" would "deter rather than expedite justice."

Mississippi's John Rankin was equally positive, but more succinct. Said he:

"The less the gentleman from New York, Mr. Celler, sticks his nose into our affairs, the better it will be."

Alabama Legislators Ask Congress 'Hands Off'

Montgomery, Ala., June 24 (AP). The Alabama Legislature asked Congress today to keep "hands off" in the State's campaign against hooded mobs.

Klan Raids Labeled Good News To Reds By Labor Official

The News — Birmingham Ala.

Recent night forays by hooded raiders in Alabama today were labeled as good news to the ears of Communists.

John J. Playfair, president of the Alabama State Industrial Union Council, in a letter to all affiliates in the state, likened the Ku Klux Klan to Hitler's Gestapo and to Stalin's secret Communist police. Tue. 6-21-49

THE LETTER URGED all CIO unions and their members in the state to combat the Klan and expose "this ugly menace."

"The Ku Klux Klan is rearing its ugly head again in Alabama," the letter stated. "Recent night-riding raids in Birmingham and nearby communities and K. K. K. parades and outrages in other Alabama cities and towns are increasing evidence that the Klan is being revived in full strength.

"The Ku Klux Klan follows the same pattern as did the Nazis and as do the Communists." Tue. 6-21-49

THE LETTER ADDED that newspaper accounts of the raids and floggings are "difficult to believe that you are reading about happenings in Alabama."

"It is doubtful," the letter said, "if any event today pleases the Communists more than the despicable outrages that have been taking place here and elsewhere in the South. The Ku Klux Klan gives aid and comfort to all enemies of democracy."

PUBLIC JOINS POLICE IN ALABAMA CRUSADE AGAINST NIGHT RIDERS

The Appeal

New But Skimpy Reports Of Klansmen's Activity Are Made To Authorities

Memphis, Tenn.

MOTHER IS THREATENED

House Of Representatives Due To Take Up Bill Banning Masks—Citizens' Committee Calls Wednesday Meeting

By ROLAND DOPSON
United Press Staff Writer

BIRMINGHAM, June 19.—Public sentiment massed as a bulwark to police power Sunday as new but skimpy reports of masked-mob activity were made to authorities.

A special state investigator, assigned to aid county authorities stamp out the night-riders, said a flood of telephone calls had followed Gov. James E. Folsom's request that any evidence of gangs or threats be reported.

Mother Is Warned

Many were apparently phoney, the investigator said, but the mother of five children said she had been warned "the Klan is coming to see you and your husband." The warning was given Saturday by an unidentified woman, Mrs. Felix E. Thomas reported. Her husband is a truck driver.

The woman left the Thomas house after making her brief statement. Mon

A cross was burned late Saturday night, in the rear of an 18-unit apartment building inside the city proper. No one apparently saw the cross being set up.

Meanwhile, the newly-formed Citizens Voluntary Committee, under chairmanship of Dr. John Buchanan, Baptist pastor, called a mass meeting of all civic religious, patriotic and business groups for Wednesday afternoon. Its purpose will be to give active support to law and order here.

Sheriff Holt McDowell late Saturday disclosed the flogging of Bill Hamilton, a coal miner. A crippled miner, William Rochester, said he was forced to witness the beating as "a lesson." 6-20-49

Advised To Defend Selves

McDowell has advised citizens that they have a right to defend themselves "by any means." Rochester and B. G. Stovall, another lash victim, armed themselves.

In the State Legislature at Montgomery, the House of Representatives is slated to take up a bill banning masks on public roads or on property of another person. Already pushed through the Senate on Folsom's appeal, it may have slow going. The House meets only twice weekly, and final action may not come until June 28.

The state Veterans of Foreign Wars, in convention at Montgomery, is expected to indorse the measure, said retiring Comdr. Robert K. Bell of Huntsville. Several American Legion posts have already done so. State Legion Comdr. William S. Petry of Camden promised full support on moves to "stop mob rule of any kind or description."

Rochester, 42, said five or six masked and hooded men dragged him from his home on June 1, and drove Hamilton and himself to a deserted spot. There, he said, Hamilton was given 20 strokes. Both were accused of failing to support their families properly.

Draws Welfare Funds

The crippled miner draws $95 a month from the United Mine Workers welfare fund. He still wears a brace while recovering from injuries sustained in a rock fall.

Folsom, in addition to pressing the anti-mask bill, had invoked an old "anarchy" law to punish any mobs caught in acts of intimidation or assault, and reinforced the State Highway Patrol staff here.

BIRMINGHAM, June 19.—(AP)—Three women and two men have been flogged by hooded and robed bands near Dora, Ala., within the last month, a Walker County officer said Sunday. Dora is 28 miles northwest of Birmingham, in adjoining Walker County. Its population is 1032.

Chief Deputy Herman Treece at Jasper, the Walker County seat, said all the victims were white. Treece said no formal complaint had been made to the sheriff's office there. No formal investigation was made, he added.

MINISTER IN ALABAMA TO TELL LEGISLATURE OF KLAN'S ACTIVITIES

Appeal — Memphis Tenn. — Wed. 6-22-49

'Don't Want To See Return Of Carpetbag Government Or Negroes Running Things'

BAPTIST PASTOR TO TALK

Public's Demand For Action Against Mob Rule Growing —New Deputies Assigned In Jefferson County

(Pictures on Page 30)

By ROLAND DOPSON
United Press Staff Writer

BIRMINGHAM, June 21.—A Baptist preacher claiming to be a Ku Klux Klan official said Tuesday night he will tell the Alabama Legislature "all about the Klan and its recent activities."

"We don't want to see the return of carpetbagger government or negroes running things," said the Rev. Alvin Horn, identifying himself as a member of the Alabama Klan's Board of Governors.

Will Appear Today

He said he would tell the full story of Klan activities to a House Judiciary Committee hearing in Montgomery Wednesday on the Senate-approved bill to remove the hoods from the Klan and similar masked groups. Wed.

His mention of "recent activities" was the first hint from a purported Klan source that the organization might be connected with the wave of violent outbreaks in the Birmingham area in the last month.

The Federated Ku Klux Klan of Alabama disclaimed knowledge of the incidents when they first began coming to light last week.

Horn is a Baptist preacher in Talladega. Several months ago, a mob in white robes flogged two white women at Talladega in a raid setting the pattern for the violence that has become common here. The Klan also denied participation in the Talladega incident. 6-22-49

A number of Klansmen and Klan sympathizers reportedly went to Montgomery, the state capital, to oppose the demasking bill.

Public Clamor Grows

Thousands of citizens, representing veterans and men's and women's civic groups, were adding their voices to the clamor for an end to mob rule in North Alabama.

A C.I.O. official compared the "bedsheet hoodlums" who have sown the masked terror with "Hitler's Gestapo" and "Stalin's secret police."

John J. Playfair, president of the state C. I. O. denounced the masked raiders in a message to every C. I. O. local in the state.

Authorities were responding to the sounding-board of public indignation. Four more deputies were assigned specifically to the mob violance investigation in Jefferson County (Birmingham). Eight deputies and four special state agents now are working on the five reported raids by hooded mobs in the county.

Newsmen's Attackers Charged

Solicitor Emmett Perry called for all evidence gathered thus far to determine if it is sufficient for the grand jury to go into special session.

The News

Birmingham, Ala. Thu. 6-30-49

FIRED THROUGH SCREEN DOOR—Mrs. J. J. Gavens fired through the screen door of her home at men who abducted her husband. The three ministers point to holes in the screen caused by the shots.

Alabama Terror Described; State's Police Action Praised

The Times, New York. N.Y.

By C. P. TRUSSELL
Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

Thu. 6-30-49

WASHINGTON, June 29—Floggings and threatened burning and hanging of men and women by robed, masked and armed night riders in Alabama were described in stark detail today to a House Judiciary subcommittee considering anti-lynching and other measures of the President's civil rights program.

The descriptions were given by three Alabama newspapermen who had investigated more than a dozen terror actions by pistol-and-rope-carrying bands. One of them, Clarke Stallworth, a reporter for The Birmingham Post, testified that he was attacked and beaten during one of his inquiries.

The others were Clancy E. Lake, City Hall reporter for The Birmingham News, and Paul Trawich, editor of The Union News, a weekly at Jasper, Ala. Mr. Trawich told the committee he had been warned by telephone to "write about the tea parties but leave the other stuff alone."

Thu. 6-30-49

These witnesses did not urge approval of the proposed civil rights legislation. They testified, answering questions, that they had not asked to be heard, but that having been caled, they would tell the whole story. Mr. Lake entered a reservation. He asked the subcommittee not to demand so much information that, if spread on public record, it might weaken prosecution cases being built up against members of the night riders.

Mr. Lake said that Alabama State Police, dealing with night mob forays in Jefferson County, which includes Birmingham, had worked "almost without sleep for weeks," and had done "a darned good job" in wrapping up evidence.

Continued on Page 24, Column 1

could "guarantee" that "a batch of indictments' would be returned by the Jefferson County grand jury within a matter of days. Then, he added, evidence would be gathered for a recessed grand jury in adjoining Walker County.

Mr. Stallworth was asked whether he had any suggestions to make regarding Federal civil rights legislation, and how it should be drafted. He replied that he had none. The same question was put to Mr. Trawich.

"I have no recommendations," Mr. Trawich answered, "but as an editor I have my opinions. I believe that you should leave this situation to us to handle."

While recitals of night mob forays were still in progress, it was emphasized by Representative Sam Hobbs, Democrat of Alabama, that the victims of floggings were white persons and that the alleged reasons for the violence were not racial issues but concerned charges against morals or dereliction of family responsibilities. In cases where Negroes or Catholics were involved, the testimony indicated, the bands, which at times were said to contain up to 150 men, burned croses or departed after issuing warnings. Thu. 6-30-49

Klan Denies Participation

The newspaper men testified that Ku Klux Klan officials had denied that the Klan was involved in any of the night-rider incidents. Some of the cross-burnings were laid by eye-witnesses, Mr. Trawich said, to "teen-age youngsters."

The accounts of the night raids and kidnapping of victims for beatings or warnings followed much the same pattern. There would be a knock at the door, a seizing of the victim, a ride of several miles to a wooded rendezvous in a train of automobiles and the "punishment."

Flogging with strips of belting, putting nooses around necks, and at times hauling rope over a tree limb until a victim was on tiptoes, appeared to be the routine. In the case of a group of six seized at Dora, Ala., on the night of June 3, it was testified, there was a period of prayer between each of the "punishments" and another prayer at the end.

This case involved Mrs. Irene Burton, a widow, and her daughters, Sally, 16 years old, and Billie Fay, 18, and three men, Troy Morrison, Willy Koogler and Bill Lowery. Mr. Stallworth testified that Mrs. Burton and Sally were beaten but that Billie Fay, with a noose around her neck, watched. The men who were flogged were said to have been accused of "dating" the widow and her daughters, he said, and "someone didn't like it."

Representative William T. Byrne, Democrat, of New York, chairman of the subcommittee, asked Mr. Stallworth whether the victims recognized any of the night riders. The reporter replied that Mrs. Burton said she believed she had recognized the voice of one, and gave his name. Times.

Representative Emanuel Celler, Democrat, of New York, and chairman of the full Judiciary Committee, asked whether he had seen crosses burned.

Woman "Proud of the Klan"

"I saw one," Mr. Stallworth replied. "It was at the home of Mrs. Fred Hoagland at Sumiton, Ala., on June 20. But she told me it was not burned by the Klan. She's a taxi driver and expressed the belief that it was burned by business competitors. She told me: 'We are proud of the klan. It is the only law in Walker County.'" Thu. 6-30-49

Mr. Stallworth also said Mrs. Hoagland had told him that he could get information from one Roscoe Fowler and that Mr. Fowler could be found at a Sumiton auto supply store. The reporter said he asked Mr. Fowler if he had any information he wanted to give me about Klan beatings or other beatings.

"He hit me," the witness continued. "I pushed him back. He came at me again. I saw a man coming in the front of the store with what looked like a wrench in his hand. He was Glen Godfrey. Fowler pinned my arms to my sides and said to Godfrey, 'Give it to him.'"

Mr. Stallworth said that Messrs. Fowler and Godfrey were now under bail for a hearing on assault charges. This was the only docketed prosecution action pending at the moment in connection with the night rider cases, he added.

The testimony indicated that law enforcement officers of Alabama had few formal complaints before them, and that victims of floggings were reluctant to talk about their experiences.

Crippled Miner Tells Probers Of Floggings

The Advertiser Montgomery Ala. Sat. 7-2-49

Jefferson Investigates Hooded, Robed Mobs; Report New Whippings

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., July 1—(AP)—A crippled coal miner was brought on a stretcher today before a county grand jury investigating hooded and robed mobs in the district.

The miner, William Henry Rochester, was called to testify in the flogging of a friend, Billy Hamilton, 39, at nearby Coalburg the night of May 28.

Rochester, whose back was broken in a mine accident, has been under treatment in a Birmingham hospital for a nervous breakdown, his wife said. He told officers and reporters previously that he was dragged from his home and forced to watch Hamilton's flogging. Sat. 7-2-49

Cafe Invaded

This case and an invasion of a Brookside cafe by an estimated 60 white-sheeted men June 10 were being examined first by the jury. Others to be investigated include the manhandling of a 42-year-old grandmother June 10 and the flogging of a 31-year-old Navy veteran June 13.

The public is barred from grand jury investigations.

The jury was charged earlier today by Circuit Judge Robert J. Wheeler to "get to the bottom of riotous, venomous and malicious acts" of night riders in this district.

There was no indication when the jury will report back. Court attaches said, however, that more than 50 witnesses have been summoned.

There were two other developments:

Three New Floggings

1. Three more floggings were uncovered today, one in Jefferson County, the others in rural Clay County in east central Alabama.

Young Buney, 36, water truck driver for the city of Lineville in Clay County, said he was seized at his home the night of June 1, taken into the woods and beaten with a leather strap.

He said the masked men asked him if he was "in favor of the legislation." He said he told them he didn't know what they were talking about.

2. Two state investigators reported the disruption of what apparently was a Ku Klux Klan meeting near Lineville, in Clay County.

State Officers V. J. Kitchem and Ed Pepper said they went to a building formerly used as the Olive Branch School.

Cars Parked

The officers said they found 25 to 30 cars parked there, the windows of the building covered with cloth and the door locked.

They returned to Ashland for reinforcements. When they got back, the building was empty and the cars gone. Sat. 7-2-49

The officers were sent there after two Methodist ministers, Rev. H. Frank Ledford and the Rev. Luther Brown, said they verified three floggings in recent weeks there.

The fourth Clay flogging case uncovered today was that of John Henry McCullers, Negro father of six, who said he was beaten senseless by hooded men. He said they accused him of going with a woman other than his wife.

The Jefferson flogging reported today was that of Ellis Gill, 52, ore miner who since has moved to Hamilton, Miss., because he said he feared for his life.

Not A Member, But

Editor, The Advertiser:

I would like to commend you on your editorial about the Maxwell Field situation (and the segregation). It was surprising to me to know that a paper the size of the Advertiser would be for anything that the Southern people believed in.

The people as a majority, believe in the K. K. K. I'm certainly not a member, but I don't fear them because they want only the people that the law won't touch that commit crimes. *Montgomery, Ala.*

I also enjoy reading the letter from the "Dixiecrat" lady last Saturday (June 25) although you condemned it to the utmost.

As far as making a separate country out of the Southern states, that is impossible. The rest of the country would object because they look down upon the South as being a little lower than the rest of the country. Since the South is about 1-4 of the nation, anything that comes up in Congress can be beat down the South's throat by a 3-4 majority vote. *Sat. 7-2-49*

It would be good if the South could be a separate nation and live in peace with the North and carry on trade but as long as the big dog bites the little dog, we don't have much of a chance.

W. E. BENSON

East Tallassee, Ala., Rt. 1.

Well Done

The ease with which the anti-masking bill went through the legislature is a gratifying commentary on how conditions have changed from 20 years ago. Commendation for a needed job efficiently done is in order, for the legislature and Gov. Folsom.

Advertiser, Montgomery, Ala. Thur. 6-30-49

It is increasingly evident that Klan power to enlist or intimidate has played out. And there need be no fear that Alabama's cotton economy will be injured by restricting sheets to the uses for which they were originally intended. The number in Alabama who would wear a hood if they could has dwindled to a thoroughly repudiated remnant.

Then And Now

The Advertiser, Montgomery, Ala.

TODAY there will be a public hearing before the legislature on the Senate-passed bill to outlaw the masks of the Ku Klux Klan. Meanwhile, the outrages of the albino swine of the Klan continue apace. *Wed 6-22-49*

These outrages are as yet by no means so formidable as the outrage occurring last week when scores of labor goons arrayed in a motor cavalcade ground down on and assaulted some miners in Shelby County who ignored John L. Lewis' shutdown. Nevertheless, labor violence by labor goons being old stuff like that of company goons and both being less picturesque than Klan activity, it is the nocturnal maraudings of the sorry white men of the Klan that engrosses the newspapers of other regions.

For example, The St. Louis Post-Dispatch—which ought to know better because of its proximity to Indiana, wherein the Klan in the Twenties was the most powerful and vicious—does not believe the banning of masks the key to subjugating the punkbund. The Post-Dispatch comments:

Wed. 6-22-49

What a man wears on the public streets ought to be determined by his own taste, good or bad, any by a reasonable respect for the community's canons of decency. So it is a little difficult to rise to the support of the Alabama Senate's effort to outlaw the hoods of the Ku Klux Klan.

There is nothing particularly obnoxious about a man's desire to wear a nightgown over his suit; although it's pretty silly. As for masks: only cowards want to hide their faces. No, the offense of the Klan is not in its garb, but in its principles and practices. To these, the costume is only incidental.

It is inconceivable that the Klan should be able to maintain, in the words of Dr. E. P. Pruitt, a member of its board of governors, that its members "have not violated any law," that they have been faithful to their charter as extended by law.

In the main, the organization has been able to exist only to the extent that its prejudices were the prejudices of a substantial part of its community. There was a time in some parts of the South when a man could not aspire to public office without making a bow in its direction. But those days are running out.

This is demonstrated by the determination of Alabama's Gov. Folsom to wage a campaign for the Klan's extermination. Apparently, the state's attorney general is to file suit for the revocation of its charter. Obviously, prejudice is losing its grip.

When it goes, hoods will go, too.

★

THE New York Herald Tribune takes what appears to us a shrewder and sounder view of the anti-mask bill:

HURRAH FOR ALABAMA

Alabama has suffered in recent days a series of outrages by hooded hoodlums.

These are the attempts of ignorance and inferiority to assert themselves. A certain amount of mental deficiency is always to be taken for granted, but such poltroonery becomes ominous when it actually organizes into a corporate movement and invites widespread imitation of these cretinous demonstrations. That is the time for intelligent people to crack down, which is what Alabama is now doing.

To the credit of Governor Folsom, legislation is being rushed through the Alabama legislature to forbid the maskery nonsense. Attorney General Carmichael has been instructed to revoke the charters of all pillowcase outfits.

State law-enforcement agencies are ordered, under emergency powers, to take charge instantly if a local situation should get out of hand. This is quick and commendable action.

The maskers can't stand to show their faces; the rigorous prohibition on secrecy is the killing stroke against all such lawlessness.

We ony wish that Governor Talmadge might behave as well in Georgia, where Atlanta and other cities forbid masking, but the state legislature recently refused to act against the Kluxers.

Alabama, we hope, has given Governor Talmadge cause to think.

★

THERE is considerable national interest in the South's Klan recrudescence. As far back as six months ago The Herald Tribune was running Pg. 1 surveys of Klan activity. Thus, the vicious imbecilities of snooded jackals is harmful to the South externally as well as internally.

Klan stories on the AP wire do not sustain the South in its resistance to Civil Disturbance programs in Congress and they do not assist the paramount effort to attract industry.

★

THE Klan performed a great service to the South in the beginning as it performs a great disservice three generations later. The contrast of its beginning and present is well pointed in this excerpt from Fleming's "Civil War & Reconstruction In Alabama":

"The Ku Klux Klan originated in Pulaski, Tennessee, in the fall of 1865 . . . (The founders) were Alabamians and Tennesseeans . . . It was a club of young men who had served in the Confederate Army, who united for purposes of fun and mischief . . . The name was an accidental corruption of the Greek word Kuklos, a circle, and had no meaning.

"The officers had outlandish titles and fancy disguises were adopted. The regalia or uniform consisted of a tall cardboard hat covered with cloth, on which were pasted red spangles and stars; . . . and a long robe . . . white, black, or red—often fancy colored calico. A whistle was used as a signal.

"This scheme for amusement was successful . . . Pulaski was near the Alabama line, and many Alabama young men saw these parades . . . Nothing but horseplay and tomfoolery took place in the meetings . . . *Wed 6-22-49*

"The Klan had not long been in existence . . . when a pretty general discovery of its power over the Negro was made. The weird night riders in ghostly disguises frightened the superstitious Negroes, who were told that the spirits of dead Confederates were abroad . . . There was a general tendency, owing to the disordered conditions of the time, to go into the business of a police patrol . . . There were at this time (klaverns) in all the Southern states, and even in Illinois and Pennsylvania . . ."

WIDOW AND TWO MEN FLOGGED BY NIGHT RIDERS

Daughters Forced to Watch Whipping

Birmingham, Ala., June 20 (AP)—Three new floggings were added today to the growing list of acts by robed and hooded terrorists in this area.

They were disclosed to newsmen by one of the victims, a widowed mother of five. She is Mrs. Irene Burton, 38, of Dora, Ala.

Stand Beside Her

Two of her daughters, Billie Faye, 18, and Sally, 16, were forced to go with her by the masked band. Both daughters stood beside her on a wooded hillside road as she was struck three times with a rope the night of June 3.

Two men, both seized by the band at the Burton home, also were flogged. They first were threatened with hanging. A third man was let off because he was crippled. *6-21-49*

Dora, a mining hamlet of about 1,000, is 28 miles northwest of Birmingham, in adjoining Walker county. It is 20 miles or more from the scenes of other recent beatings and cross burnings in Jefferson (Birmingham).

Wore Robes With Crosses

Mrs. Burton, together with most of the other victims of the night riders, blames the Ku Klux Klan. She said members of the band "wore robes with crosses in small circles," and hoods. That description fits klan regalia.

Mrs. Burton said the men accused her of running an "indecent place." She denied the charge.

Chief Deputy Sheriff Herman Treece at Jasper, county seat of Walker, said last night he had heard of the whippings at Dora, but no formal complaint had been made to his office.

He added that no formal investigation had been made.

Kluxers Warn Two Ministers

The Advertiser, Montgomery, Ala.

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., July 3—(AP)— Two Methodist ministers in Clay county, about 80 miles east of here, have been warned to halt their inquiry into mob violence by robed and hooded bands.

The two men earlier this week uncovered a series of floggings in the hilly, rural county.

They are the Rev. Frank Ledford, pastor of the Ashland First Methodist, and the Rev. Luther Brown, pastor of the Millersville Methodist. *7-4-49*

Ledford, who gave a sermon today on "Christ or the Klan," said he was warned yesterday not to go into Ashland. Two men came to his home, he said, and told him the "temper of the town" was against him.

Warning Ignored

The minister ignored the warning today to give his sermon. In it, he said:

"If the Ku Klux Klan or any other group has teachings, actual or inferred, contrary to freedoms guaranteed by the constitution, "they are neither Christian nor American."

The Rev. Brown was warned Friday night that "you are pretty close to the top of the whipping list." The warning was given at prayer meeting.

State officers were assigned to investigate the threat.

The Worm Turns

One important and significant outcropping from the hooded terror now spreading its evil fangs over remote sections of Georgia and Alabama rests in the fact that for the first time constituted authority has suggested to the whites who are being beaten and tortured that they should arm themselves and shoot, and shoot to kill.

Anarchy has existed in the South since the days of Reconstruction. Hooded night-riders have roamed the countryside, clubbing, beating and killing defenseless Negroes, but no sheriff or law enforcement officer has previously told Negroes to arm themselves and shoot to kill. It has been just the other way around. If hysterical, terrorized members of families whose relatives had been brutalized and slain, fought back, it was always the Negroes who were immediately apprehended and penalized for making frotal attack on the mob. Negroes could break up mobs in the South in such a way the membership of these murderous gangs would be unquestionably identified, if they had the assurance of the elected officers in the county where the mob committed its crimes, they would have protection.

But the worm has turned. Following more than eighty years of protection, the Ku Klux Klan has decided it will extend its field of operation to units of the white population. No one seems to recognize this dangerous drift toward a fascist state. We're too busy in this country watching Communists to realize that in that section of the nation where we have the least democracy totalitarianism is gripping at our very throats. Common judgment should teach all of us that the enemy always attacks at the point of least resistance, and that is what is happening today in Dixie.

For years we have been inclined to feel Italians with their Mafia and Black Hand organizations were something terrible upon which to contemplate, but the Ku Klux Klan, with its bedsheet coverage and its collusion with law enforcement agencies, has been just as vicious and cancerous as any outcroppings of social degeneracy we have noted in other lands.

The Klan rushes in to say breaking down of law and order in Alabama and Georgia at the present time is not a part of the Klan program. But who would believe the Klan, when we know this evil organization has in the past adopted every subterfuge to hide its reprehensible and murderous acts? The present outrages have all of the ear-marks of the Klan. Perhaps the Klan has taken a leaf from the book of Communism which is rumored to have a number of "front" organizations. We are like the old lady who was following her pastor's sermon and his description of an animal described in the Bible. The old lady was patiently intoning behind the words of the divine:

"Oh, it looked like a mule, it acted like a mule, it brayed like a mul. Oh, it must have been a mule."

We cannot to save ourselves attribute the conduct of the terrorists down in the troubled sections of Dixie to anything other than approval or adoption of the subversive principles of the Klan, which has been winked at by government for many moons. You will recall it was Job who said, "The triumph of the wicked is short, and the joy of the hypocrite but for a moment." In the South we have nurtured and protected groups whose sole purpose was to intimidate, terrorize and brutalize Negroes. Apparently we never realized that some day when this monster we were feeding grew to maturity, it would not be satisfied with clubbing Negroes, but that the spirit to do violence would be boundless and ungovernable.

Governor Folsom should immediately recognize that to combat this entrenched evil he must seek the cause of the demoralization now vexing his state. He should know that at the core second-class citizenship supplies the soil for the cancerous roots of an influence that may eventually destroy the very government he seeks to preserve. It means he must get rid of jim crow, segregation, disfranchisement and every undemocratic form; it means the citizenry must with genuine sincerity attempt to secure for every citizen government by law rather than by gangs. When the day comes Negroes have physical safety, plus economic and social freeedom in the Southland, Governor Folsom will have found the solid ground upon which to stand and offer equal protection to both black and white within the confines of his commonwealth.

Strongly-Worded Resolution Handed Over To McDowell

Gen. Gorgas Post No. 1 Scores Lack Of Arrests; Legionnaires Say They're Not Satisfied With Official's Reply

A strongly-worded demand that Sheriff Holt McDowell take quick and effective action in halting mob violence in Jefferson County was made today by Gen. Gorgas Post No. 1 of the American Legion.

A resolution demanding that Sheriff McDowell "arrest and bring before the bar of justice . . . masked and robed violators" was formally presented to Sheriff McDowell this afternoon.

". . . Acts of masked and robed hoodlums are in open violation of the law," the American Legion resolution says, "and the law enforcement officers of Jefferson County, Alabama, have failed or refused to this date to bring to the bar of justice a single person connected with any of said numerous crimes and acts of violence, although the said crimes were committed in mass, and of frequent occurrence."

* * *

AFTER PRESENTING THE RESOLUTION to the sheriff in person and after talking with the sheriff for several minutes about recent acts of violence in this district, Carle Williams, committee chairman for General Gorgas Post, said:

"We are not one bit satisfied with what the sheriff had to say.

"We are asking representatives of veterans' groups in this county to draw up some questions that will be to the point.

"We plan to submit these questions to the sheriff for direct answers."

The questions will be assembled and put together at tomorrow night's meeting in the General Gorgas clubrooms at 2210½ First Avenue, North.

Meeting in the annual state encampment at Montgomery today, the Veterans of Foreign Wars today deplored the wearing of masks by "any organization or any groups." The VFW endorsed the anti-masking bill passed last Friday by the state Senate.

* * *

NEVER IN THE HISTORY of Jefferson County has such a sharply-worded and direct demand been made by a major citizens organization on a sheriff.

The American Legion and other veterans' organizations entered the mob violence picture here after William Guyton Stovall, a Jefferson County Navy veteran, was flogged by masked men.

Mob action in Jefferson County by masked men began last June when robed men paid a visit to a Negro Girl Scout camp near Bessemer, and invaded the tent of two white women Girl Scout instructors.

An investigation by the Sheriff's office finally ended with a report from his investigator that "most of the people in the area are sympathetic with the action."

Legion Resolution Text

Members of the General Gorgas Post No. 1, American Legion, today made public the text of a resolution condemning mob violence in Alabama and calling on Sheriff Holt McDowell for action in the flogging of William Guyton Stovall.

The resolution follows:

WHEREAS, The American Legion was organized for the purpose of upholding and defending the Constitution of the United States of America, maintaining law and order, and fostering and perpetuating a 100 per cent Americanism, and to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation, and to promote peace and good will on earth, and to transmit to posterity the principles of justice and democracy upon which our government is founded; and,

WHEREAS, Masked and hooded bands of hoodlums and thugs have been allowed to roam through Jefferson County, Alabama, committing all types of violence and crimes from raiding Girl Scout camps, to assaulting and beating a vet-

eran of World War II, who offered his life to perpetuate the ideals and principles upon which this country is founded; and,

6-20-49

WHEREAS, The said acts of the said masked and robed hoodlums, are in open violation of the law, and violate the purposes and principles upon which the American Legion is founded; and the law enforcement officers of Jefferson County, Alabama, have failed or refused to this date to bring to the bar of justice a single person connected with any of said numerous crimes and acts of violence, although the said crimes were committed in mass, and of frequent occurrence; Now Therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Executive Committee of General Gorgas Post No. 1, of The American Legion, Department of Alabama, in meeting assembled at Post Headquarters on this the 17th day of June, 1949, calls upon Hon. Holt McDowell to arrest and bring before the bar of justice the said masked and robed violators herein referred to, to the end that the citizens of this community shall have the protection and security to which they are entitled as American citizens.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Legislature of Alabama be, and it is hereby called upon to pass forthwith, and make effective statutes which will make it a crime for citizens to parade the public highways of the State of Alabama without a legal permit, masked and robed,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the recent stand publicly taken and stated in the public press by Hon. James E. Folsom, governor, and Hon. Albert A. Carmichael, attorney general of Alabama, be and the same is hereby commended, and they are hereby called upon to make effective the principles and purposes announced by them as the chief law enforcement officers of Alabama, with the assurance that this Post of The American Legion, and the law abiding citizens of this community will wholeheartedly support and aid them to accomplish said objectives as stated by him.

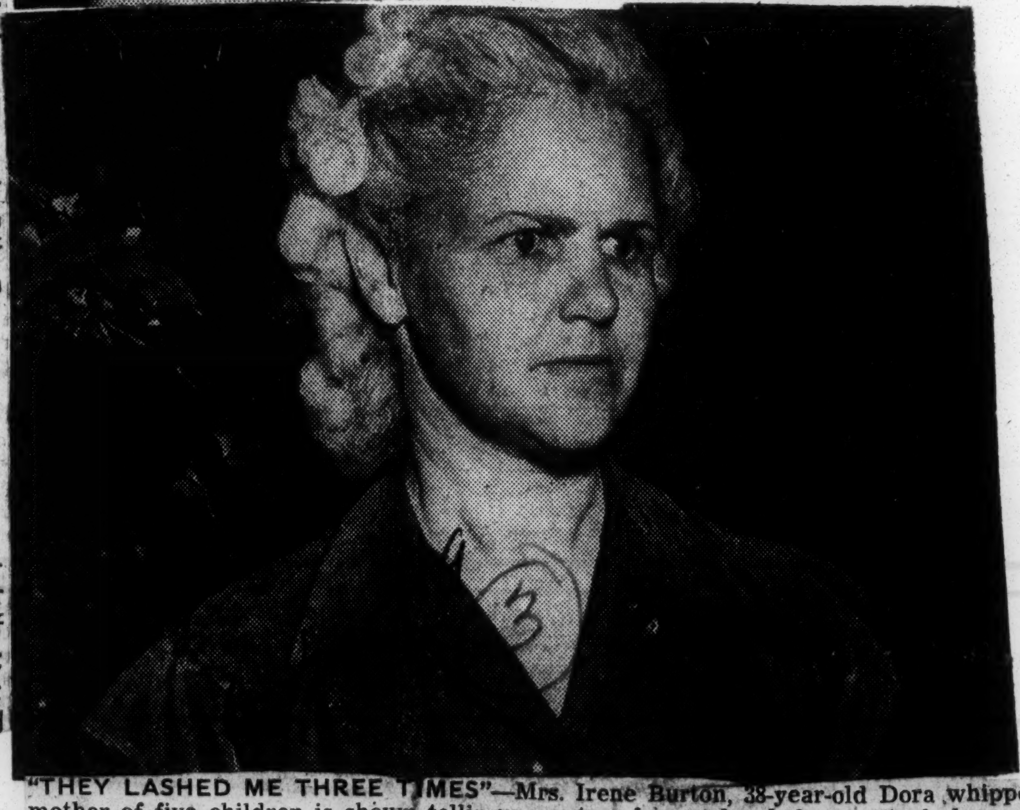
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That General Gorgas Post No. 1, The American Legion, call on other American Legion Posts in Jefferson County and on the local organizations of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Disabled American Veterans to form a Committee against Crime and Violence.

6-20-49

THAT said Committee against Crime and Violence, composed of representatives of the above veterans' organizations, meet at the earliest possible time to determine what course of action the organized veterans of this area can and should take to put an end to the incidents of lawlessness and mob violence hereinabove referred to.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be delivered by the commander of General Gorgas Post No. 1, American Legion, to Hon. Holt McDowell, sheriff of Jefferson County, Alabama; Hon. Emmett Perry, solicitor; to each member of our delegation in the State Legislature; to Hon. James E. Folsom, to Hon. Albert A. Carmichael, and to the public press of the state.

6-20-49



"THEY LASHED ME THREE TIMES"—Mrs. Irene Burton, 38-year-old Dora whipped mother of five children is shown telling reporters how a hooded gang took her and five others to a lonely wooded spot. She was lashed three times by the mob, which was estimated at between 100 and 150 men.

Advertiser
Montgomery, Ala.
June 22-49

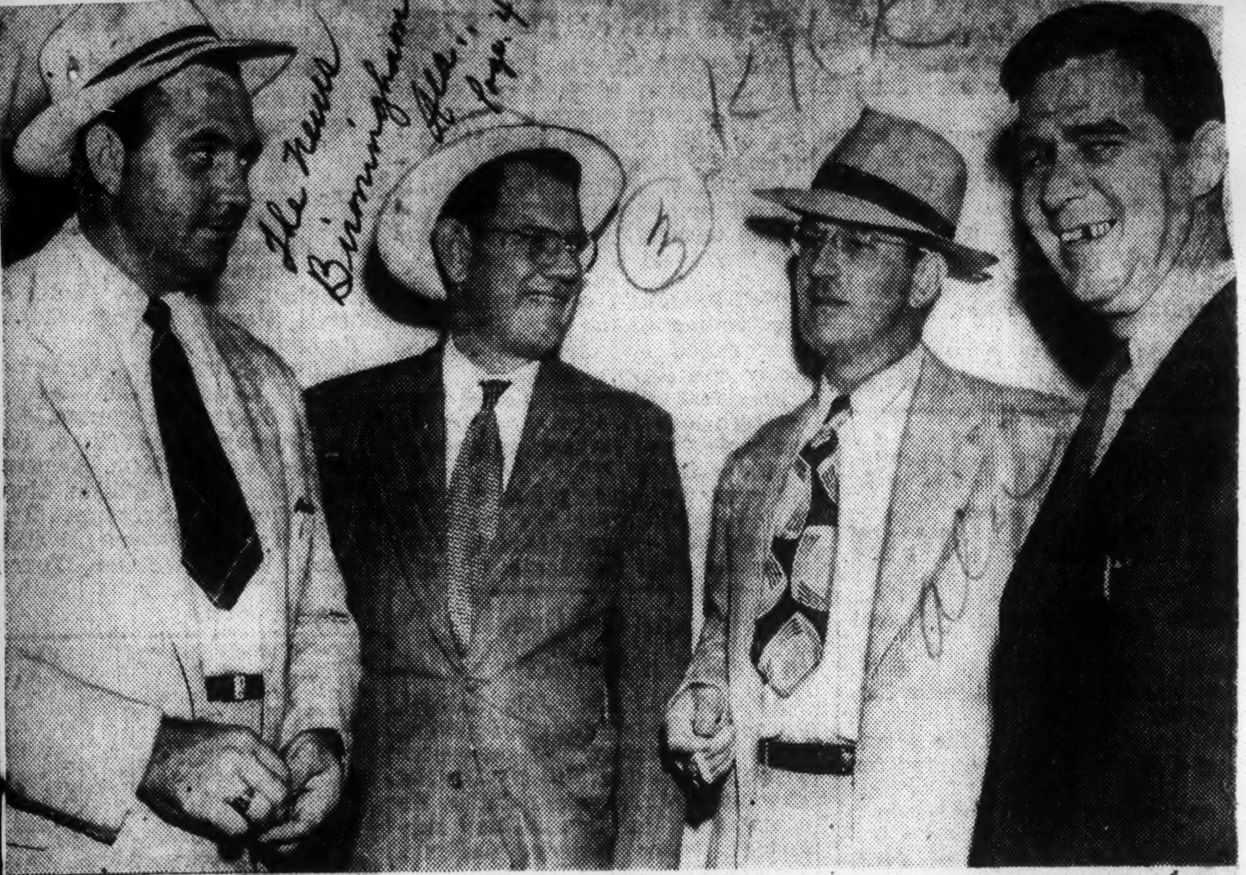
THE sheeted mobs who have been committing outrages in the neighborhood of Birmingham, Ala., find themselves today the objects of local, state and federal attention. The Jefferson County prosecutor says he is ready to call a special grand jury session, a committee has been formed to "mobilize our citizenry in support of decency, law and order," the State Legislature is about to pass a bill outlawing masked organizations, and in Washington a civil rights subcommittee has begun an investigation. The Ku Klux Klan, which has crawled out from somewhere, like the seven-year locust or some even more lowly form of life, denies doing anything wrong. Still, most Americans, North or South, distrust any group which doesn't dare show its faces in public.

The mean and cowardly acts which have taken place are symptoms of something rotten in a small American minority. The fact that they have been directed by whites against whites is a shift in the pattern but of no especial significance. If this sort of thing is allowed to spread every one outside immediate police protection can be terrorized. The incident points up the need for an explicit and national definition of civil rights. But the prompt action taken in Alabama shows that federal intervention is not always needed. If all our states will do as well as Alabama has started to do they need not worry about "outside interference."

Alabama Takes A Stand Against Hooded Mobs

The New York Times

(3) KKK



THEY WORKED UP CASES—This is the first picture taken of the four state officers who worked night and day to break up hooded and robed mobs in Jefferson County. The four members of the State Department of Public Safety are shown outside the Grand Jury room. Left to right: Ben Allen, C. E. Benton, W. L. Allen, Jr., and Cecil Sanderson.

10 Witnesses Queried, Coalburg Beating Victim First To Give Testimony

Miner With Broken Back Arrives On Stretcher; Wives Of Two Called; 11-Year-Old Girl Also Tells Of Masked Men's Call; Pastor Summoned

Ten witnesses were questioned by the Jefferson County Grand Jury investigating masked mob violence in the first five hours of the secret session today.

The Grand Jury, called into special session this morning, was charged by Judge Robert J. Wheeler to "get to the bottom of riotous, venomous and malicious violent acts of alleged masked and robed men."

First witness to go into the secret session was Bill Hamilton, Upper Coalburg, who was flogged by a band of hooded men.

An ambulance brought William Henry Rochester to the courthouse and he was taken into the Grand Jury room on a stretcher.

Rochester, who broke his back in a mining accident last year, was kidnaped from his home by the same hooded men and forced to watch while Hamilton was stripped and flogged.

After the luncheon recess Mrs. Hamilton and Mrs. Rochester were called into the Grand Jury room.

They were followed by 11-year-old Martha Rochester, who was at home the night her father was taken out by the masked and armed men.

* * *

AFTER BRIEF QUESTIONING of the girl the Grand Jury at 1:30 p.m. ordered Bill Hamilton, who had left the courthouse, brought back for further questioning.

Next witness was William Snyder, a Birmingham truck driver.

He was followed by Ben Wilson, of a Birmingham automobile rental agency.

Emett Atkins, a Coalburg neighbor of Hamilton and Rochester, was the eighth person to give evidence before the Grand Jury.

W. F. Welch, close personal friend of Rochester, was next called into the jury room for questioning.

Shortly before 3 p.m. the Grand Jury summoned the pastor of the Pentacostal Holiness Church of Upper Coalburg, James V. Owens.

Before the judge charged the Grand Jurors, Atty. Gen. Albert Carmichael told the court:

"I would like for the record to show that at the attorney general's request the court stated to the jury that it is contemplated Ku Klux Klan activities will be gone into. Under the law of the state it is proper for any member of the Grand Jury who is a member of that organization to retire from the jury."

Judge Wheeler turned to the jury and asked:

"Are any of you members of the Ku Klux Klan? If you are, hold up your hand."

No hands were raised.

Atty. Gen. Carmichael said "That meets with my approval," and Judge Wheeler began to charge the jury.

* * *

TEXT OF JUDGE WHEELER'S charge to the Grand Jury:

Gentlemen of the Grand Jury:

I have called you into special session made necessary by recent developments in this county.

I regret the inconvenience which this call will cause you. You have recently been in regular session for weeks in the discharge of your duties as a Grand Jury.

During that time you have performed your duties to the satisfaction of the court and the public.

You have no doubt read in the newspapers accounts of alleged violence having been visited upon citizens of your county by individuals who allegedly formed themselves into mobs whose members' identity was obscured or hidden under robes and masks.

These accounts of alleged violence and anarchy have been published to the whole world, to the chagrin and shame of our county and state.

It is charged, and insofar as I am informed, has not been denied, that mobs such as I have described have entered upon private property, and even into the homes of private citizens, and have manhandled and beaten men, women and even children. The members of the mobs, it is alleged, have not been content to subject their victims, if guilty of crime, to the due processes of law, but instead have by their alleged actions assumed and arrogated to themselves the functions of courts and juries.

It seems unneces[illegible] for me at this time to elabo[illegible] more upon the alleged riotous, [illegible]nomous and malicious acts of these alleged masked and robed mobsters.

If what has been charged be true, these men have not only violated the laws, but have struck at the very foundation of all law and order.

I charge you to get to the bottom of this matter.

See if you can, from the evidence, find what are the facts and, if the evidence justifies it, bring in true bills. If any are indicted they will be brought before the courts and juries and tried.

They will not be treated like their unhappy victims who were denied due process of law.

In your deliberations be impartial, fair and just. Don't permit anything to deter you from a courageous performance of your full duty.

I will await your report, which I feel sure will reflect fairness, impartiality and real moral courage and resolution.

More than 50 witnesses were called today to testify in the Jefferson County Grand Jury investigation of masked hoodlumism.

Courthouse corridors were swarming with persons who came to tell what they know about actions of masked gangs in Jefferson County.

Elmer Brock, a Brookside police officer, who reportedly looked on from a distance when masked men paraded into Brookside and invaded a cafe, was present.

So was John Bensko, mayor of Brookside.

STEVE MARSHALER, the restaurant man who was threatened by the hooded and armed gang, and his brother, John, a town councilman at Brookside, were present.

William Henry Rochester, crippled Upper Coalburg resident, was carried into the Grand Jury room this morning on a stretcher.

Rochester was kidnaped from his home by hooded men on the night of June 1 and forced to watch his neighbor, Bill Hamilton, flogged.

Mrs. Rochester said her husband had a nervous breakdown last Monday.

His back was broken in a mining accident last year.

Rochester had a nervous breakdown, his wife said this morning.

Mrs. Rochester and 11-year-old daughter were at the courthouse to testify.

MRS. ROCHESTER said her husband would be brought to the Grand Jury room later in an ambulance.

Five Negroes, who were on a segregated side of the Brookside cafe when robed men visited the place, were called to testify.

Solicitor Emmett Perry has asked all victims of mob violence and threats by masked hoodlums to come forward to testify.

Gov. James E. Folsom has promised protection to witnesses.

THE GRAND JURY is expected to investigate:

1. The visit by hooded men to the Westwood home of Mrs. Hugh McDanal, a 42-year-old woman who was threatened and slapped by the robed hoodlums.

2. The invasion of a Brookside cafe by robed and hooded men who threatened Steve Marshlar, the restaurant owner.

3. The lashing by hooded and robed men of Bill Hamilton, a Coalburg miner, while his crippled friend was forced to look on.

4. The flogging of Billy Guyton Stovall, a Navy veteran.

5. The bombing months ago of Negro houses in Birmingham's Smithfield area.

GRAND JURY ACTION came after more than two weeks of intensive investigations by four members of the governor's investigation staff and Solicitor Emmett Perry.

The Grand Jury call was given by Judge Wheeler Wednesday less than an hour after a Birmingham News reporter, Clancy Lake, told a congressional committee in Washington, "I think I can assure you the Grand Jury will issue a batch of indictments."

Lake told the special congressional committee he believed the state could and would handle the outbreak of masked floggings in Alabama.

The Grand Jury action will not interfere with investigations being made here by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

ALABAMA MOVES TO UNMASK MOBS

Birmingham Is Forming Group to Catch Night Riders, and May Call Grand Jury

LEGISLATURE RUSHES BILL

Ban on Hoods Due for Vote Tuesday—Congressional Inquiry Is Ordered

MONTGOMERY, Ala., June 22 (AP)—Alabama moved swiftly today on two fronts to unmask and punish hooded hoodlums. At the same time a Congressional inquiry into the white-sheeted mobs was ordered in Washington.

Such action was prompted by a wave of floggings, cross burnings and threats in the Birmingham area recently. All involved white persons. No arrests have been made.

The state Legislature moved a step nearer passage of an anti-masking bill, despite Ku Klux Klan opposition. The state Senate has passed it. A House committee today gave it unanimous approval, placing it in line for adoption next Tuesday.

A "committee of 500" was being

formed in Birmingham. Backed by war veterans' groups and civic clubs, it will seek to track down the night riders.

This committee, to be composed of leading civic figures in Birmingham, is expected to offer its full cooperation to law-enforcement officers there in an effort to halt mob violence.

Special Jury Session Talked

County prosecutor Emmett Perry said today he was ready to call a special grand jury session to consider evidence against the robed and hooded mobs.

In Washington, a civil rights subcommittee, headed by Representative Emanuel Celler, Democrat, of New York and directed by Representative William T. Byrne, Democrat, of New York, will investigate acts of hoodlumism in Alabama. Mr. Celler said the committee's staff already was at work locating witnesses to call to Washington. 6-23-49

The Ku Klux Klan flatly denies that it or its members have engaged in lawless night-riding activities.

The victoms of hooded mobs, in almost every instance, describe official klan regalia in telling how their assailants were dressed.

Hooded bands have followed a pattern in recent acts. All have been in mountainous rural areas of Jefferson (Birmingham) County, or in a similar area of adjoining Walker County. Most of the residents of those areas are coal miners. 6-23-49

In each instance the victim has been warned against reporting the incident, either to law-enforcement agencies or to newspapers. And, in each instance, the victim has been threatened with a return visit.

The Ku Klux Klan was powerful and active in Alabama in the Nineteen Twenties. It lost power and was not often heard from between 1932 and 1946, when a charter was filed by the Federated Ku Klux Klans, Inc., in Birmingham.

White-sheeted bands began parading occasionally in the state. In June, 1948, a hooded group raided a Negro Girl Scouts camp in rural Jefferson. Two white instructors were warned to leave. Negroes were not molested. No arrests were made.

Incident Two Weeks Ago

Then on June 10 this year, a robed and hooded group broke into the home of Mrs. Hugh McDanal, 42-year-old grandmother, struck her twice on the head and snatched a gun from her.

She was attempting to load the gun. Then they forced her into her front yard to watch a cross burned.

The same night, thirty minutes earlier, a hooded mob entered a small café, threatened the owner, Steve Marshler, and burned a cross. His café, divided by a wall, served both Negroes and whites.

He was told, "we've got to keep those Negroes down."

On June 13, Billy Gupton Stovall, 31-year-old Navy veteran, was dragged from his home by six or eight masked men and flogged. This act brought a prompt demand from the American Legion for action by law-enforcement groups.

Gov. James E. Folsom assigned state investigators to the Birmingham district. 6-23-49

On June 17, they reported, they found an armed special deputy sheriff, C. A. (Brownie) Lollar, acting as sentry at a Ku Klux Klan meeting. Lollar turned in his commission the following day.

The following day the flogging of Billy Hamilton, 39, of Coalburg, Ala., on the night of May 28 was revealed. A crippled miner, William Henry Rochester, was forced to go along and watch.

Three floggings at Dora, Ala., in Walker County were discovered by reporters June 19. Mrs. Irene Burton, 38, and two men were whipped. Two of Mrs. Burton's daughters, Billie Faye, 18, and Sally, 16, were forced to watch. They said they were positive the hooded men who seized them were Klansmen.

Reporter Lake Appears Before Group In House

The News
Birmingham, Ala.
Sat, Wed. 6-29-49

He Praises Work Done By Governor's Investigators On Case

BY JAMES FREE
Washington News Correspondent

WASHINGTON, June 29—Clancy Lake, Birmingham News reporter told the House judiciary committee today that "I feel sure that the Jefferson County Grand Jury will issue a batch of indictments very shortly."

Lake told the judiciary subcommittee conducting hearings on hooded mob activities in Alabama that he felt sure that the state law enforcement agencies would produce evidence that will result in indictments.

The young newspaper man, second to go on the stand at the hearing, told Rep. Byrne and the subcommittee that a Jefferson County Grand Jury is standing by ready to be called into extraordinary session. Wed. 6-29-49

"Four state officers," Lake said, "have been working on this almost from the start. They have been working virtually without sleep and I can tell you, because I have been cooperating with them closely, that these men have done a darn good job."

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN Byrne asked Lake if he thought the state officers and Gov. James Folsom have done everything possible to stop waves of beatings by masked mobs.

'Yes," Lake replied, "they have."

Lake said: "The governor meant business when he ordered the officers to smash the hooded mobs operations. And the state officers have, in my opinion, done their job well and to the 'nth degree."

The News reporter told the subcommittee that only one of the several hooded mob acts that he had personally investigated involved any question of race or religion.

THE REMAINDER of the mob acts, Lake explained, appear to have involved white people against white people.

The night riders in most of these cases, Lake said, were critical of what they described as "immoral conduct" of their victims.

Lake, and the other Birmingham newspaper man who testified before the subcommittee, Clarke Stallworth, of The Birmingham Post, both said they had "no recommendations" to make regarding pending civil rights legislation.

All five representatives, including Rep. Nelson, said they were not members of the Klan. Rep. Gillis declared, however, that he had been a member back in the 1920s.

Sen. Tom Blake Howle, of Calhoun, was chiefly responsible for resumption of filibuster tactics yesterday in the Senate. It was at his request that the Senate journal for Friday was read at length.

Both houses required several votes before finally rejecting the plan for a 12-day recess.

Not only did the Senate refuse to recess, but the upper house also rejected a motion that, to combat the filibuster tactics by the administration minority, the Senate convene at 12:01 a.m. Friday.

The mayor said he did not think it would be necessary for Birmingham to pass an anti-masking bill in view of the state law just passed, but that he would support a city law if it is proposed.

* * *

PASSAGE OF THE STATE law against wearing masks in public was hailed by dozens of groups in the fight against hooded mobsters.

"One of the next steps in the legislative field is to show the City Commissioners the need for passing an unmasking ordinance for Birmingham," a veterans' spokesman said.

The Committee of 500 today concentrated its attention to a legislative act to dissolve the Ku Klux Klan and similar organizations.

The hard-hitting fight against the Klan by Gen. Gorgas Post No. 1, American Legion, won the support of Florence Post No. 11, American Legion. It commended the Birmingham Legionnaires for their actions against mob violence.

A reward fund to fight the hood and the lash in Jefferson County has grown to $2,400, officers of Gen. Gorgas Post No. 1 announced today.

"Enforcement of the law still is our major objective," the Legion spokesman said. "We are going to keep on untill masked floggers are put in jail."

* * *

THE GRAND JURY has been standing by for more than a week, ready to launch a far-flung investigation of hooded mobs and floggings.

At the same time J. Edgar Hoover's G-men are conducting their own investigation.

The FBI agents have been asked particularly to delve into the law enforcement phase of masked mobs in Jefferson County.

The anti-masking bill became law at the stroke of 12 yesterday when Gov. Folsom signed the measure during a brief ceremony in his office.

The bill which outlaws use of the mask in public, except in observance of official holidays, was passed by the House at 11:15 a.m. after a two-minute consideration. The bill received a vote of 84 to 4 on passage.

It was signed by Lt.-Gov. J. C. Inzer at 11:45, by Speaker W. M. Beck, at 11:48 and by the governor at noon.

THREE PENS WERE used by Gov. Folsom in approving the bill. One was presented Sen. Henry H. Mize, Tuscaloosa, sponsor of the bill, and the other two were handed to Rep. Earl McGowin, Butler, and John Snodgrass, Jackson, who were active in passing the bill in the House.

Reps. Pugh Haynes and Neil Robins on, of Lowndes; George B. McDonald, of Coosa, and John F. Gillis, of Clarke, voted against the Mize bill.

City, Klan Oust Man From Home

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Ill.

(Defender Southeastern Bureau)

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—City officials and the Ku Klux Klan teamed up this week to force a Negro insurance representative to move out of his home. Sat. 6-4-49

Willie German, field representative of a Jacksonville, Fla. insurance firm, said he evacuated his North Smithfield home Saturday after he received a threat of bombing.

The threat was reportedly made by a city employee, who openly identified himself as an officer of the Robert E. Lee chapter of the Ku Klux Klan.

Ordered To Move 6-4-49

Chief Building Inspector H. E. Hagood ordered German to move following the bombing threat made by the Klan officer. Hagood said the area was for whites only.

German lived a block from where three Negro homes were bombed several months ago. He said the professed Klan leader approached him Saturday and told him: Sat. 6-4-49

"I am a city employee. I am also an officer in the Robert E. Lee chapter of the Ku Klux Klan."

Pointing to the three bombed Negro homes, the man was quoted by German as saying "Do you see that? We don't want Negroes here. If you and your family aren't out by tonight, that will happen to you."

The Klan leader stayed in front of German's home while he moved out and talked to police officers called to the scene to prevent any violence.

Detective Paul McMahan, who parked his car across the street while the furniture was being taken from the home, refused to identify the city employee who boasted of his Klan affiliations.

The disputed zoning issue goes back 20 years. At that time there were scattered Negro homes in the North Smithfield area. About 15 years ago, white families began moving out, and continued their exodus as more Negro families moved in. Today there are about five white homes in the area.

Want Negroes Arrested

First bombing of a Negro home in the area was in 1947. A new home under contruction was demolished. No one was ever tried for the bombing.

Last year, white families, fearing Negroes were "encroaching" on their property and "lowering values," agitated for a change in the zoning laws.

Forming a committee, the whites requested that Negroes moving into the North Smtihfield area be arrested. The request was made at a meeting with the City Commission.

Ask New Zoning Law

No arrests were made, but three days after the meeting, three homes purchased by Negroes were bombed. The homes were on 12th ave., just off Center st. Police officals arrested no one in connection with the violence.

After the bombings, a series of meetings was held by white residents of the Graymont-College Hills section. They were called to work out an acceptable zoning plan.

The plan was submitted to the City Commission two weeks before the city election, May 3. It was accepted without change. Commissioners set last Tuesday as the date for a public hearing on the proposal but held it over until May 31, because of the absence of Commissioner James W. Morgan, who is on vacation.

Dividing Line Planned

The hearing will be on a proposal to establish a 150-foot-wide strip on the east side of Center st., as a sort of "buffer" area. It would be commercially zoned.

Negroes and whites already living in the strip would be permitted to stay, but all other buildings would have to be of a commercial nature. All the area east of the strip would be zoned for Negroes.

Alabama Bans Masks

Detroit, Mich.
Detroit Free Press

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—(U.P.)—The Alabama Senate, on an urgent demand by Gov. James E. Folsom, passed a bill forbidding the wearing of masks. Sat. 6-18-49

Veterans' groups are angered over the flogging of a former sailor. They had moved to form their own "committee against crime and violence" in the absence of adequate laws to deal with recent outrages by hooded groups.

Klan Drags Cripple Miner To Flogging

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—William Rochester, 43-year old white coal miner and a cripple, told Sheriff Holt McDowell this week that a band of armed men, wearing white hoods and white robes, had dragged him from his home to a wooded spot three weeks ago, and forced him to witness the flogging of a friend, William Hamilton, also white. Sat. 6-25-49

RALPH McGILL

The Constitution *Atlanta, Ga.* *Tue. 6-14-49*

In the Middle--Tried and Proved

Homer Chase—the Southern Communist leader, who is so revealing of the fact that he feels the world treated him badly, and to com... his own lack of courage, he is going to get even with ... d world by bringing on Communism so that sweet old ... Stalin will give us all an even break—has produced a pamphlet. This was after Homer put up bond to get out of jail, when he saw he was getting no publicity and receiving no martyr's crown. Well, as we said, after Homer got out, he produced a pamphlet.

It calls on all Americans to rally to the Communist Party. Free cake and free listening to the Paul Robeson records can be had.

It attacks me as a stooge of Wall Street and as an enemy of the Negro and of democracy.

In fact, this sheet, which was distributed largely to Negro districts in Atlanta and adjoining towns, says that Ralph McGill is engaged in a conspiracy to destroy the Communist party. . . . which party is, of course, the only party which will stop lynching and bring justice to the poor peoples of the earth, according to Homer.

Well, again I am complimented.

Homer has a thin skin, as do all the shallow intellectuals, who gather to eat cake and play the Paul Robeson records, and send minute reports of progress to Brother Dennis, the fat-sniveling little wife stealer who heads up the major Communist party in this country.

He doesn't know it. But I do. The top boys don't think much of Homer. I've seen their report on Homer and they say right out in writing they consider him a failure and a stooge to get rid of as soon as they can find someone. Homer, I think, is going away to California. Homer has failed.

This attack on me was one of three in the same week. I have been on the receiving end of these things before, but to get all of them in one week is magna cum laude.

Success One was from a fellow who, to judge from his words, is worried by a fear that he really isn't superior to anyone, including the colored people. At any rate he engages in a search for arguments to bolster himself. I never argue with the people who are trying to prove they are superior to the colored race. If they are afraid they are not they must have some reason known to themselves. At any rate, while Homer was charging me with being one of the persons in Georgia seeking to destroy the Communist party, this fearful little man who seems to be trying to prove himself superior to the colored folks in his community, charged me with being Communist-minded for demanding justice in courts for the Negro citizens. He reportedly suggested violence be done me. (I do wish he and Homer would get together. They both have so much in common—a lack of confidence in themselves.) And, in the same week, the Ku Klux attacked me as an enemy of their organization—which I am. I rate the Communists and the Klan as enemies of our country's system of law and of trial by jury.

Tue. 6-14-49

Position All this made me feel good. It proved to me that I had achieved a position I want to achieve—the middle of the road as is dictated by a Calvinistic conscience, which rides me without saddle blankets. I couldn't be Communist if I tried, because they are so obviously hypocritical frauds, and enemies of this country. I couldn't be a Ku Klux because, however badly I might have strayed from my teachings, I wouldn't dare appear before the final judgment seat with a Ku Klux robe in my background. And God knows I could never be one of those persons who thinks lynchings and murders are all right—if it is just another Negro who is lynched or murdered.

Anyhow, denounced by the Communists as a conspirator seeking to destroy them; castigated by the lynch-minded and the "supremacy" fellows who often, with good reason, are so very afraid they really are not as good as a Negro; and flayed by the Ku Klux Klan, I give humble thanks to my Maker I have managed to stay in the middle of the road, a little left of center. . . . which is where I try to stay.

Stone Mountain There was another pamphlet. It was one advertising the Ku Klux Klan meeting at Stone Mountain.

"Come and see what the Klan stands for," it said.

Written across it was this line, "Dare you to be there."

Well, I won't be there. I know what the Klan stands for. It has just shown us by attacking a lone woman in Alabama. I have tried my best—and will continue—to persuade at least some Klansmen they don't belong in it. I don't like to see well-meaning people deprived of $10, which goes to buy steaks and pay rent and dress up girls. I continue to ask any, and all, Klansmen if there has even been a time when they needed the Klan or got anything from it save violent speeches.

I don't mean this to be a soul-scrubbing essay, but I do appeal to every person believing in the Christian teachings; to the good people in every town and city and rural neighborhood to try and imagine the Nazarene in a Ku Klux robe, going in a mob to terrify helpless persons.

The Constitution

Who? So, gentlemen, out there at Stone Mountain, we all know who you are and what your order stands for. You are frightened persons who have been told the Jews, who are 6,000,000 persons in 140,000,000, are taking over your country; you are fearful, uninformed persons who believe the Negro, who is about 13,000,000 in 140,000,000; that the Catholics, who are even fewer—are about to drive the Anglo Saxon out of America. You must know, if you will think about it, that's bunk. You've lost all faith in self—which is where the chief faith must be.

The Klan is anti-Christian, anti-American. It says it isn't. But it is. It prostitutes the cross by burning it to advertise its threat of violence.

Atlanta, Ga.

We can keep America strong by maintaining her laws and her ideals—liberty and justice—and a fair trial for every citizen regardless of race or wages or social position. Any other method will destroy us.

So, under that hood—let your mind and your conscience be at work.

Tue. 6-14-49

If you do you'll take it off—for good.

Soperton Mayor, Klan Chieftain Throw Verbal Darts on Treutlen 'Unmasking'

Atlanta Constitution *Atlanta, Ga.* *Mon. 5-23-49*

By SAM CLARKE

Grand Dragon Dr. Samuel Green, of the Ku Klux Klan in Atlanta, and Mayor Jim Peterson, of the turpentine city of Soperton, yesterday waged a war of words after Peterson jerked the masks off three hooded men Saturday night in Soperton.

Peterson, serving his ninth term as Mayor, said the men will appear in City Court June 13, and he figured he would have to try them himself because the City Recorder died recently and has not been replaced. The Mayor added that the trial had been scheduled for today, but was postponed at the request of Duncan Graham attorney for the three men.

Dr. Green declared last night, "We don't like our dogs being kicked around by mayors or anyone else." *5-23-49*

"If he did jerk their hoods off," Green continued, "he is in violation of Civil Rights as if I went into his office and jerked his hat off."

Mayor Peterson, brother of former Rep. Hugh Peterson, snapped back that "he ripped the hoods off the men and had them arrested because they were disturbing the peace."

The trio was lodged in Soperton City Jail after a series of scuffles but was released late Saturday on $100 bond, Police Chief M. B. Ware reported. He listed the men as Joe Green, farmer; Malcolm Braddy, mechanic, and John Edge, State Highway Department employee.

Dr. Green said it was not the Mayor's job to take the situation in his hands "even if the men had been making a disturbance." He added that some action may be taken in the case, but he did not disclose the nature of this action.

Peterson countered with a reminder that all that area was on the alert for five escaped convicts, and that "nobody knows how they might have disguised themselves."

Mayor Peterson said he had received several telephone calls from frightened women, and when he went to investigate he found two hooded men near his home. He said he asked them what they were doing, and when they refused to answer, stripped off their masks. *5-23-49*

The Mayor said one of the men, whom he identified as Braddy, struck him, knocking off his glasses. The other man the Mayor named was Joe Green.

Peterson then called Officer Ware who took the two to jail. He and Ware drove around in the police car and found three men in masks on the streets.

The Mayor related he then unmasked one, but the others fled as Ware fired once with his pistol. Edge was identified as the third man arrested.

Ware said a few crosses have been burned in Soperton, the latest one a month ago, "but we haven't had any serious trouble from the Klan." *5-23-49*

The Mayor said he thought the men might have been posted at the corners to direct a Klan cavalcade, but Dr. Green declared he knew of none in that area.

Dr. Green said he, himself, had been at Springfield, 150 miles from Soperton. He attended a court-

house "public speaking" which was witnessed by 5,000 persons and 1,000 Klansmen. He added that it was "nice and orderly as I insist that all meetings be."

Soperton is a town of 1,500 in Treutlen County in south central Georgia. The Klan recently was placed on Atty. Gen. Tom Clark's list of subversive organizations.

Mayor Peterson has served on the Board of Regents of the University System under Gov. Ellis Arnall, Acting Gov. Thompson and Gov. Talmadge.

Night Rider Fight At A Glance

A congressional committee will investigate masked floggings in Jefferson County—starting next week.

* * *

Leaders here in industry, business, labor, civic affairs, veterans groups, and the churches, have organized a Committee of 500 to stamp out masked and unmasked mob violence.

* * *

A veterans committee on crime and violence is still active, promising to "get to the bottom of lawless acts in this county."

* * *

The Mize anti-masking bill is expected to become law this week. It must be passed by the House and signed by the governor.

* * *

Legislature may consider amendment to Mize bill requiring all public officers to take an oath that they are not members of the Communist Party or the Ku Klux Klan.

* * *

Sheriff Luther Bozeman, of Shelby County, has been handed 14 indictments to make arrests in the armed raid on the Cahaba Coal Mine on June 9.

* * *

The Federal Bureau of Investigation today officially began investigation of floggings and cross-burnings in Jefferson County.

* * *

Solicitor Emmett Perry today said he had not received a report from any of the law enforcement agencies shortly before noon.

The Grand Jury is standing by ready to be called to investigate mob violence by masked men.

* * *

The Justice Department asked FBI in Washington to order its Birmingham office to probe the Alabama situation.

LEFT BY NIGHT RIDERS—This small pine cross was left blazing yesterday at the home of Mrs. Lois Bickerton (left, above) and Robert Bickerton (right), at Parrish. No warning was left with the blazing cross. Hooded and robed night riders were named responsible.

Perry Urges Victims Tell Stories To Jury

Alabama's war against hoodism, mobism and Klanism proceeded on two fronts today.

Circuit Solicitor Emmett W. Perry issued a plea for victims of mob violence to contact his office in person. He wants them to appear before a special session of the Grand Jury called for tomorrow morning.

* * *

ATTY. GEN. ALBERT A. Carmichael continued with his plans to file court action leading to revocation of the charter of Federated Ku Klux Klan Incorporated.

The Federated Klan was incorporated in Jefferson County in July of 1946.

Alabama legislators announced in Montgomery that they will not move to revoke the charter by legislative act or by joint resolution of the Senate and the House.

They recommended that Mr. Carmichael take the matter to court.

Mr. Carmichael said in Montgomery that he had "no comment" about when such action may be filed.

Members of the constitution and elections committee said they thought court action would be better because:

The matter was primarily one for the courts; no bill to revoke the Klan charter has yet been introduced and if a bill is introduced there is no assurance it would come to their committee.

* * *

THE ORDER calling the special Grand Jury session was signed yesterday by Circuit Judge Robert J. Wheeler at the request of Solicitor Perry.

Solicitor Perry said all evidence gathered by state, county "and other" officers, will be presented the secret body.

He said this will include evidence about some recent floggings in this area.

Solicitor Perry declined to answer specific questions about the evidence, or who might be called to testify.

The jury presently is in recess. It has been "standing by" since June 10.

Meanwhile, members of the Jefferson County legislative delegation, said in Montgomery that they are ready to meet with Birmingham's committee of 15 to discuss the status of precedings to revoke the Klan's charter.

Solicitor Perry declared the jury will "continue in session until all available legal evidence has been presented. . . If any person has been beaten or molested by gangs or mobs, hooded or unhooded, in Jefferson County, such persons are invited to contact the solicitor's office in person and be prepared to give such evidence as they may posses directly to this secret session of the Grand Jury."

ANOTHER DEVELOPMENT in the county's fight against mob violence came yesterday when the Jefferson County Personnel Board took under advisement a request that all job appplicants be required to sign a sworn statement saying they are not and never have been a member of a hooded organization.

The proposal also would have applicants say whether they belong to, or have belonged to, any other organization advocating or participating in mob violence.

The board questioned its authority to deny employment to a member of the Ku Klux Klan since the order is chartered legally.

They made it plain, however, that they could fire any person found guilty of taking part in such activities.

Another proposal considered by the board and taken under advisement was a request that the question, "Are you a member of a subversive organization?" be placed on application forms. The Klan is on U. S. Atty. Gen. Clark's list of subversive organizations.

The Personnel Board met in the home of Member James C. Lee, who is confined to the home because of illness.

Maj. T. T. Huey also attended. The third member, Francis Hare, is on vacation.

For Fewer Masks

To the Editor:

If you and your political propaganda should be successful in your courageous effort to unmask the Ku Klux Klan in Alabama, perhaps the Boy Scouts of America and this writer may be able to enlist your noble assistance in our effort to unmask the Lone Ranger. Hi Ho, Silver. Yours for fewer masks and more civil rights.

W. B. STRICKLAND.
1336 Huntsville Road, Birmingham, Ala.

Klansmen From 3 States To Meet In Alabama Today

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—(INS)—The first Alabama-wide conclave of the Ku Klux Klan in 26 years will be held in Tarrant City, near Birmingham tonight.

High-ranking Klansmen from at least three states—including Georgia grand Dragon Dr. Samuel Green have reportedly been invited to the affair which has been termed a "Natudalization Ceremony."

The "Call" has been issued for all Klansmen in Alabama as well as in neighboring states. Some 400 persons are to be initiated.

It was reported that no attempt will be made to prevent the public from watching the ceremony.

Reporter Beaten Seeking Data on Gangs in Alabama

(The Associated Press)

Birmingham, Ala., June 20—A newspaper reporter investigating reports of hooded and robed gangs was beaten up Monday at nearby Sumiton, the state highway patrol said.

The reporter was identified as Clarke Stallworth of the Birmingham Post.

The highway patrol said a car had been sent to Sumiton. The dispatcher said the car would take Stallworth to Jasper, the Walker county seat, presumably to swear out warrants.

No details of Stallworth's condition or what happened at Sumiton were available, the patrol said.

Sumiton is a small mining community about 21 miles northwest of Birmingham. It is in Walker county, just across the Jefferson (Birmingham) county line.

3 1949

KKK (Alabama)

The South Will Do It

(From The Christian Science Monitor of June 27)

B'ham News Birmingham, Ala. Mon. 7-4-49

We predict that sound Americans living below the Mason and Dixon line will take care of the Ku-Kluxers or their imitators. There is mounting evidence that thousands of people in the South have had their stomach turned by recent outrages of hooded gangs in Alabama. From church pulpits, labor unions, and a large part of the press have come denunciations of the "bedsheet bullies" who have beaten 11 persons near Birmingham.

Other sections of the country may wonder why arrest and punishment is not more prompt. Non-Southerners forget that revolt against injustices imposed on the South under the carpetbagger rule originally gave "direct action" an aura of virtue there. It is necessary to note, too, that in the present cases the victims have been whites, whose self-appointed judges considered them guilty of neglecting children or otherwise lapsing from some moral code.

Of course, neither these things nor the fact that other sections of the country also fail sometimes to punish violence in any way justifies a "soft" attitude toward self-righteous cowards who set themselves above the law in Alabama. Northern agitation for federal laws which many Southerners feel would rob them of local self-government may have stirred counter activity for white supremacy. But defense of home rule for the South can only be weakened if it is mixed with defense of masked mobs and lynch law. Morality by terrorism is rank immorality. 7-4-49

Many Southerners are pointing out that the sooner the South separates such outlawry and injustice from its legitimate desires to make its own laws and maintain its own social customs the stronger its case will be. The Klan denies any part in the beatings around Birmingham. But the Alabama Legislature is moving toward a ban on masks. On the whole, the reaction in the South encourages our conviction that its people will themselves clean out hooded hoodlums.

Cross Is Burned At Parrish Home

The News Birmingham, Ala. Fri. 6-24-49

Two Parrish families, armed with pistols, await the return of robed men to their small Walker County duplex.

A blazing cross was left in front of the home of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Bickerton about 12:30 a.m. yesterday. They joined Parrish Police Chief A. T. Puggle in tagging the robed, night riders responsible.

The cross was a crudely constructed affair of two pine slabs covered with gasoline-soaked rags.

Mrs. Bickerton said occupants of the duplex played cards until midnight. They noticed "quite a few" cars passing by. Shortly after the lights were turned out, the men left the cross. Fri. 6-24-49

"I heard my baby crying," Mrs. Bickerton said. I saw a strange light outside the window. At first I thought it was a passing car. When I looked again, I realized it was a burning cross."

SHE SAID THAT when she first oloked out she saw a car pull away. She said she became frightened at first—then "burning mad."

She called her sister-in-law, Mrs W. M. Bickerton, then borrowed a gun from a neighbor. Only then did she wake up her husband.

They let the cross burn while they kept a watch on the outside.

About an hour later they spotted the two men drive up to a nearby house. One was hooded and robed. The other wore a business suit. The men went into the house and turned on the light. Mr. and Mrs. Bickerton said it appeared the hooded men were given a gun. Then the lights went out. The two men came outside and stood looking at the spot where the cross had burned. One lighted a cigaret, and the robe was clearly visible.

* * *

THE OCCUPANTS could think of no reason for the cross to be burned in front of the house. In addition to Mr. and Mrs. Bob Bickerton and Mrs. W. M. Bickerton, the home is occupied by Miss Evelyn Gurganus, the latter's sister, and Mrs. W. M. Bickerton's two daughters.

Chief Puggle said one of his officers, M. C. McClellan, saw three carloads of men cruising "back and forth" through the small town, nine miles south of Jasper. The cars were spotted about midnight.

A cross was burned last night in front of the Mountain Brook home of Clarence B. Hanson, Jr., publisher of The Birmingham News. The incident was investigated by Mountain Brook police. Both police and Mr. Hanson established facts that convinced them the cross burning was the work of pranksters.

Eighteen robed men, garbed in full Klan regalia, filed into the Littleton Baptist Church several weeks ago. Littleton is a small Jefferson County mining community about six miles west of Graysville.

One woman fainted when the Klansmen marched into the church.

All but one of the hooded and robed figures took a seat. He marched to the front of the church and began delivering a speech. He warned the youngsters against loitering outside the church and told the congregation that attendance had better improve. A collection was taken and the Klansmen filed out. Birmingham, Ala.

MEANWHILE, the Justice Department is "evaluating" an FBI report on a preliminary investigation here into the recent terrorism. The inquiry was designed to find out if federal civil rights laws have been violated.

The Justice Department would not disclose contents of the FBI report. When such reports show federal law violations, the department generally orders a full field investigation.

Birmingham Elks yesterday joined the drive against violence. An Elks resolution yesterday declared opposition to "mobs, gangs and hoodlumism and activities of such nature as have flared up in this state of recent date."

The resolution urged "all law enforcement officers of Alabama be notified of this resolution, including the governor of Alabama, and permission hereby given . . . that this Birmingham lodge or any member thereof offer its or his services individually or collectively toward legal law enforcement."

FIVE OF THE AREA'S leading citizens will meet at 10 a.m. tomorrow to nominate a 15-member permanent citizen's committee to aid in combating the "reign of terror." Fri. 6-24-49

The nominating body was named at a citizens' meeting Wednesday at the courthouse. Members are Thomas W. Martin, Lawson Gambill, Frank B. Yeilding, Jr., Dr. John Buchanan and William Mitch.

Gov. Folsom promised yesterday he will sign an anti-masking bill aimed at the Ku Klux Klan "as soon as it reaches my desk."

The governor said Alabama's people, through public opinion, are more responsible than any other group for the action to break "hooded terrorists." He added he is confident "the people will stay behind the anti-masking bill until it is passed by the Legislature."

The bill came up for its second reading today in the House. It already has passed the Senate.

CIO men joined in demanding that lawmen act to stop the night riders. A resolution adopted by the Alabama staff members of the CIO Organizing Committee and the Textile Workers Union of America (CIO) said lawmen responsible for stopping the 'outrageous and punishing their perpetrators have up to now been unwilling or unable to act."

The resolution demanded an immediate and full investigation of all the acts of violence by every law enforcement agency.

* * *

THE LABOR LEADERS also charged "the evil influence of the Ku Klux Klan . . . is responsible for these crimes, even if the crimes were committed by others."

The reward trust fund at Gen. Gorgas Post No. 1, American Legion, increased to $1,750 yesterday.

The money is offered for information leading to arrest and conviction of persons who flogged Billy Guyton Stovall, 31-year-old Navy veteran, of North Birmingham.

Donations still are coming in at the Legion post.

OUT OF BUSINESS

The Ku Klux Klan has been put out of business in North Carolina.

The State Department of Revenue at Raleigh reported yesterday it had suspended the charter of the Klan along with those of several hundred other inactive foreign corporations because of failure to make certain reports.

The Knights of the Ku Klux Klan was chartered in North Carolina as a Georgia corporation. It was domesticated in North Carolina in 1925 as a non-profit fraternal and patriotic corporation.

PROHIBITS MASKS

Officials of the United Mine Workers of America pointed out today its constitution prohibits any member accepting membership in the Ku Klux Klan. The constitution says that any UMWA man who joins the Klan "shall be expelled . . . and no members of such organization shall be permitted to have membership in our union unless they forfeit their membership in the dual organization immediately upon securing membership in the United Mine Workers of America."

Records Changed—

Car At Klan Meeting Not His, Dealer Says

A. C. Doggett, 7105 Second Avenue, South, was named in The News on June 19 as the person to whom a license plate was issued and found on that date on a car parked at a Ku Klux Klan meeting in Adamsville.

Mr. Doggett, a used car dealer, has since that date transferred from his name automobile tags issued in his name for four different cars. B'ham News

THE CARS Actually were sold a considerable time prior to the date the tag was listed at the Klan meeting in Adamsville, Mr. Doggett said. He said he had neglected to transfer the tags on records at the courthouse.

Mr. Doggett said he did not know which one of the four cars he has sold was found in Adamsville. He said he is not and has never been a member of the Ku Klux Klan.

The News is glad to make this explanation on Mr. Doggett's behalf. Sun. 6-26-49

A Good Man Heads 500, But He Can't Do All The Work Alone

Birmingham, Ala.

BY VULCAN

I AM GLAD to see that Donald Comer was made chairman of the Committee of 500 to help put a stop to masked mobs. Sun. 6-26-49

Donald Comer is a man who can rally the people behind a wisely-chartered course to rid this county of mobs trying to take the law into their hands.

VULCAN

Knowing Donald — and who doesn't know him?—I feel pretty good about the future.

He is a man who has what it takes in courage and judgment.

Donald Comer, of course, is a busy man. He has many enterprises that call for his time and attention. He is making a sacrifice to take over the big job of helping the law enforcement agencies get to the bottom of this hood and lash and club business.

Of course there is something lacking in a community that allowed things to get into such bad shape.

But what was lacking will be furnished by men like Donald Comer and those who have been selected to serve with him. 6-26-49

He Must Have Help

YOU AND I MUST help Donald Comer and the others who have been drafted to make a citizens' fight for law and order.

What you want is to see the laws enforced.

You want to see the guilty men arrested. You want to see them indicted. You want to see them convicted and punished.

I know that Donald Comer does not take public duty lightly.

This is a job he was drafted to do.

You and I can't stand back and watch him do it.

You and I must help him.

U. S. Inquiry In Alabama Case Gets Under Way

From Wire Dispatches.

Alabama moved swiftly yesterday on two fronts to unmask and punish hooded hoodlums. A Congressional inquiry into the white-sheeted mobs also was ordered at Washington.

Such action was prompted by a wave of floggings, cross burnings, and threats in the Birmingham area recently. All involved white persons. No arrests have been made.

The State Legislature moved a step nearer passage of an anti-masking bill despite Ku Klux Klan opposition. The State Senate has passed it. A House committee yesterday gave it unanimous approval, placing it in line for adoption Tuesday.

'500 Committee' Forms.

A "committee of 500" was in formation at Birmingham. Backed by veterans' groups and civic clubs, it will seek to track down the night riders.

From Where I Stand

Move To Curb Hoodlumism Wins Ground

Courier Journal Louisville, Ky. Thur. 6-23-49

County Prosecutor Emmet Perry said he was ready to call a special grand jury session to consider evidence against the robed and hooded mobs.

At Washington a civil-rights subcommittee headed by Representative Celler (D., N. Y.) and directed by Representative Byrne (D., N. Y.) said it would investigate acts of hoodlumism in Alabama. Celler said the committee staff already was at work locating witnesses to call to Washington.

The Ku Klux Klan flatly denies it or its members have engaged in lawless night-riding activities.

The victims of hooded mobs disagree. In almost every instance they describe official Klan regalia in telling how their assailants were dressed.

Minister Testifies.

During the brief Alabama House committee hearing on the antimask bill, the Rev. Alvin Horn of Talladega, a Baptist minister, said the chief purpose of the Klan was to preserve "white supremacy." This supremacy, he continued, is threatened by "our enemies."

"I'd rather be hung from the balcony over the steps where Jeff Davis took his oath than to have the Klan unmasked at this crucial moment." Mr. Horn said. (Jefferson Davis, president of the Confederacy, was inaugurated on the porch of the Alabama Capitol.)

Thurs 6-23-49

L. C. Albright, a Birmingham attorney who said he was a former Klansman, argued, "This bill is nothing more than a smear-sheet newspaper bill."

A. D. Driver, a Klansman since 1923, said it was his official duty to screen applicants for membership. He makes sure they have no criminal record, are of good character and attend church, he said.

6-23-49

Klan Robes Defended.

The Klan's state director, William Hugh Morris, said:

"We do not wear the mask as a disguise, but as a part of the traditional uniform of the Klan. We wear the robe as a memorial to our grandfathers."

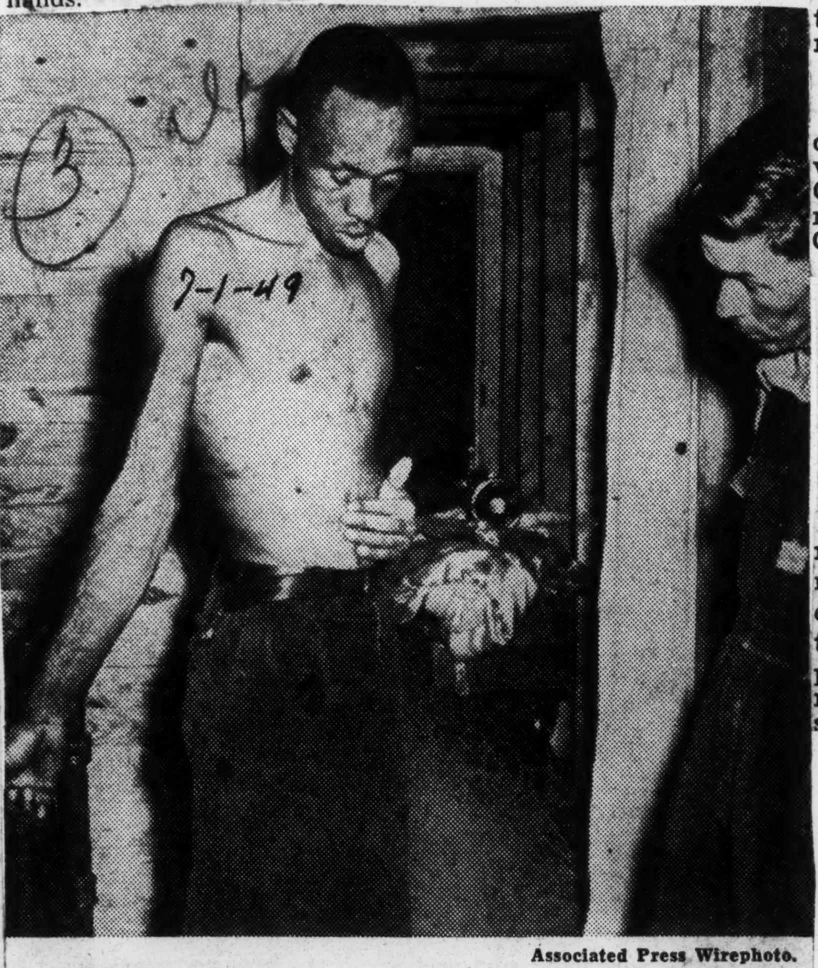
"As their blood descendants "we have taken the same name and robe for the same purpose—not to violate the law, but to uphold the principles of pure Americanism."

Morris said the Klan objected to "honky tonk-operators, common brier-patch prostitutes, and people of that type," but had committed no floggings and would "disband if it is proved guilty of any crime while wearing the hood."

Likened to Gestapo.

(The original Klan came into being after the Civil War to restore the franchise to ex-Confederates and to regain political control of the south from Negroes and so-called carpetbaggers and scalawags.)

Representatives of labor unions and veterans' organizations appeared to endorse the measure. Said John J. Foster, Birmingham, representing the American Legion, "We need no Gestapo to take the law into their own hands."



Associated Press Wirephoto.

FLOGGING SCARS are shown by 33-year-old veteran Willie Horton at Ashland, Ala. Looking on is the Rev. Luther Brown.

3 New Alabama Floggings Revealed

Two Ministers Make Inquiry

Courier-Journal Louisville, Ky.

Ashland, Ala., June 30 (AP)—Three floggings were uncovered in this rural county today by two Methodist ministers making a private investigation of mob violence. Fri. 7-1-49

The Rev. H. Frank Ledford, Ashland, and the Rev. Luther Brown, Millerville, said they investigating rumors of additional beatings and other acts of night riders.

Mr. Ledford is grand chaplain of the Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Alabama.

The minister said they had verified these floggings:

1. J. J. Gavens, 60, white herb doctor, lured from his home to treat "a sick woman" the night of May 30 and beaten with a blackjack. His wife exchanged shots with the unmasked assailants. He and his wife and small child later sold their home and left the Millerville community.

2. Willie Horton, 33, Negro infantry veteran, and his brother, Herschel, beaten and lashed until they bled by white robed and hooded men the night of June 1. Willie was quoted by the ministers as being told, "We had been talking too much."

In another case, the ministers said they were informed that three masked men entered an Ashland Negro cafe, asked about a Negro, and fired two shots into the ceiling. No one was harmed.

Ashland is in rural Clay County, 85 miles southeast of Birmingham, where several floggings and cross burnings have been reported in recent weeks. The Jeffer- County (Birmingham) grand jury will meet in special sessions there tomorrow to investigate white-robed night riders.

Klan Officials Unavailable.

Ku Klux Klan officials, who denied their members were involved in Jefferson and Walker County beatings, could not be reached for comment on the Clay County cases.

Clay Sheriff Rhett Owens and Solicitor (prosecutor) W. C. Dempsey said they would investigate the alleged beatings. State investigators were reported already at work.

Ministers and other residents of Ashland at a meeting adopted a resolution that said:

"We are outraged by these horrible crimes that have been committed in our country. We will do everything humanly possible to see that Christian principals prevail that give every man the right to hear and be heard, the same as our God does."

Alabama House Opposes U. S. Study Of Mobs

The News Birmingham, Ala. Fri. 6-24-49

Passes Resolution Urging Congress To Discontinue Plan

BY HUGH SPARROW
News Staff Writer

MONTGOMERY, Ala., June 24—Alabama's House of Representatives, which is about to give final consideration to the Mize anti-masking bill, went on record today by unanimous vote as opposing an investigation of activities of masked organizations in Alabama by the civil rights subcommittee in Congress. Fri. 6-24-49

A resolution urging Congress to order discontinuation of plans to investigate recent acts of violence in Alabama was offered by Rep. Paul Meeks, Jefferson.

* * *

THE HOUSE SENT the resolution to the Senate where it also won unanimous approval.

Rep. Meeks' resolution declared as follows:

"Whereas, as chairman of the judiciary committee of the U. S. House of Representatives has ordered a civil rights subcommittee of the judiciary committee to undertake an investigation of the recent acts of violence by hooded men in Alabama, and

"Whereas, the Legislature in Alabama is presently in session and is considering, and is in the process of enacting legislation designed to aid in the apprehension of persons committing such acts of violence and to prevent any further such acts, and

"Whereas, there are adequate and able law enforcement agencies and authorities presently investigating the violence, and

"Whereas, there have been recent instances of racial friction and resulting violence in localities such as St. Louis, Mo., and Youngstown, Ohio, which are just as regrettable and are equally to be condemned as the violence occurred in Alabama, and which have been made the subject of congressional investigation, and

"Whereas, the Legislature and people of Alabama resent and deplore the wholly unnecessary, unwanted and unjustifiable interference by a congressional committee in the internal affairs of and the administration of justice of this state. Fri. 6-24-49

"NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the state of Alabama, the Senate concurring:

1. The House of Representatives of the U. S. is hereby memorialized to order the judiciary committee and civil rights subcommittee to discontinue any investigation of or plan to investigate the recent acts of violence by hooded men in Alabama.

2. The clerk of the House of Representatives is directed to transmit a copy of this resolution to the Speaker of the U. S. House of Representatives, the chairman of the civil rights subcommittee of the judiciary committee, the President of the United States, and Vice President of the U. S. and the members of the U. S. Senate and House of Representatives from Alabama.

Two Top Klan Officials Deny Night Rides

B'ham News B'ham, Ala.

The two top officials of the Federated Ku Klux Klan said Saturday night their organization had not been involved in recent night riding activities in Jefferson County.

The joint statement was issued by Dr. E. P. Pruitt, Birmingham physician, and William Hugh Morris, a roofing contractor. Pruitt is chairman of the board of governors and Morris is director of the Federated Klan.

They said the organization had Klans in every county in Alabama, except in one or two. Its membership is entirely in Alabama. Sun. 6-19-49

Their statement:

"The Federated Ku Klux Klan, Inc., welcome and urge the fair and impartial investigation into the recent night riding activities of unknown persons allegedly masquerading as Klansmen.

"We feel that any fair investigation stripped of its headline hunters and newspaper hysteria will not only prove our organization, but its members as well, blameless and free of any law violation.

* * *

"WHILE THE newspapers and some of our renegade politicians are howling for the revocation of the Klan's charter, we note their strange silence on condemning any labor organization for the allegedaimed at the hoped-for Negro vote mob violence committed in Shelby County. 6-19-49

(This was a reference to a raid by an armed mob on a small non-union coal mine last Monday. Four men were roughed up by raiders who demanded that the mine be shut down. The Shelby County Grand Jury has been called into special session next Tuesday to investigate the raid.)

"If the scalawag politicians will cease their political propaganda aimed at the hoped-for Negro vote in 1952 long enough to prove the Klan condones mob violence, with facts and not propaganda, we will voluntary surrender our charter.

"However, until such time as this is proven, we feel that we are to be at least entitled to as much consideration as a common criminal.

"We should be presumed to be innocent until proven otherwise."

* * *

DR. PRUITT said his group would fight any effort to revoke its charter. 6-19-49

3 1949

KKK (Alabama)

Atty. Arthur D. Shores
Negro (patronage-only) Radio Station

Roundup of Dixie Dirty Work!

New Wave of Terror Sweeping Southland

Courier Sat. 8-6-49 Pittsburgh, Pa.

Klansman Attacks Negro Attorney

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—Klan King Hugh H. Morris, testifying before a Jefferson County grand jury here, made a smear attack on Atty. Arthur D. Shores, eminent civil rights lawyer and president of the Alabama Progressive Democratic Association.

Morris, authority for the Federal Ku Klux Klans, Inc., testifying about alleged stolen KKK records sought by the grand jury which is probing Klan violence, used the occasion to sock Mr. Shores.

Morris said: "I have under suspicion and within my heart believe" the No. 1 Communist in the State of Alabama is responsible for those records being stolen.

"We know definitely that he is in constant contact and in midnight conferences with Arthur Shores, who is not only an enemy of his race, but one of the worse enemies of the State of Alabama."

Shores denies any such contacts and conferences with any one as alleged by Alabama's No. 1 Klansman. Shores ignored the attack otherwise.

FBI in Georgia Investigating KKK

IRON CITY, Ga. — Since the reported attempt of Klansmen to kidnap C. L. Drake, Mayor of this city, the FBI is said to be in the area investigating activities of the organization which have in large measure been directed at Negro residents. Negroes were so intimidated by Klan activities several weeks ago that in nearby Bartertown they were afraid to go to work for several days.

Sat. 8-6-49

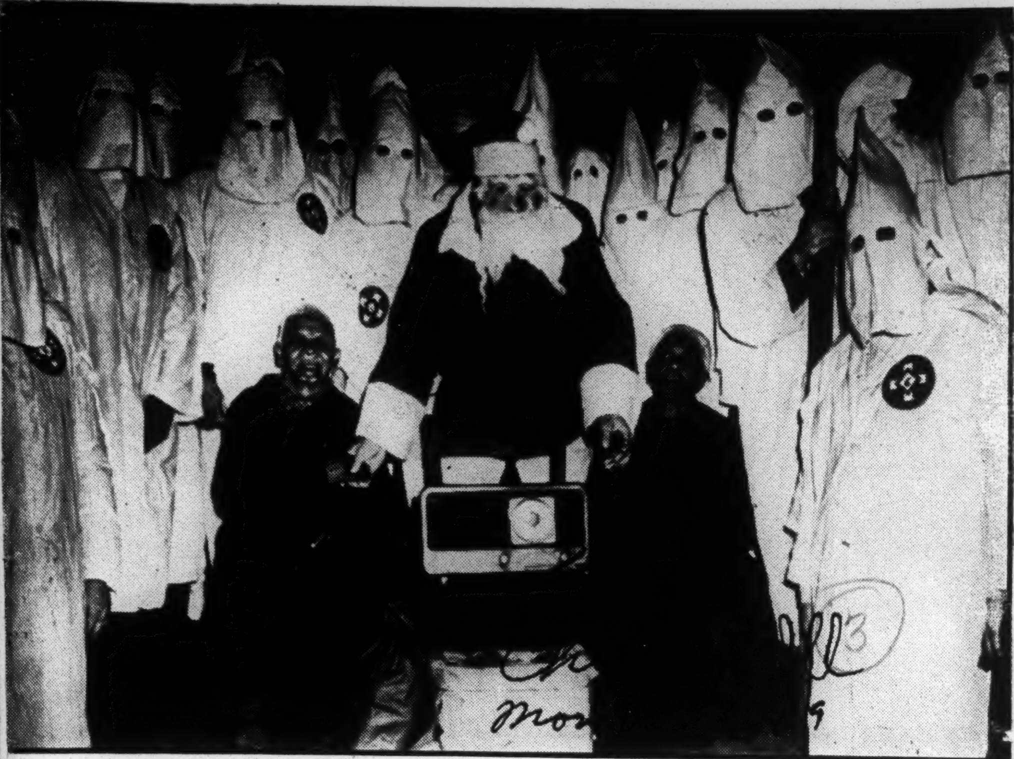
Radio Tower Is Wrecked in B'ham

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—The $5,000 tower of a newly completed Negro-patronage-only radio station financed by white capital, was wrecked here Thursday night when the cable was maliciously cut.

J. Ed Reynolds, president of the Magic City Broadcasting Comapny, said that the station was scheduled to begin operation Aug. 14 but will have to delay opening for two weeks. He said that a new tower had been ordered.

Caretaker Adam White said that an automobile filled with five white men drove to the station, two getting out, and that within seconds the tower caved in.

Discussions of racial, political and news materal would be banned on the station, the white owner said. Subjects dealing with church, music and education would be broadcast.



Associated Press

KLANSMEN & FRIENDS
A wish granted.

MANNERS & MORALS

Americana

¶ In Talladega, Ala., a white-hooded delegation of Ku Kluxers and a white-bearded Santa Claus presented a radio to Jack Riddle, a 107-year-old Negro and his wife, Josey, 86, so they could have their wish, to "hear the preachers." Grand Dragon Samuel Green explained that this demonstrated the "heart of a Klansman," called in photographers to take the most incongruous picture of the week (*see cut*).

12-Year-Old Boy Defies Cross Burning In Father's Front Yard

Talladega, Ala., Feb. 20 (AP)—A 12-year-old boy today told Sheriff Earl Howell of defying a group of hooded and armed men who set fire to a cross in front of his father's home.

Owen Drake, son of Dick Drake, resident of near-by Mumford community, said he kicked the burning cross down and doused it in a water hole about 8:30 last night.

The youngster said he saw the fire and ran out ahead of his father.

Sheriff Howell quoted the elder Drake as saying one of the hooded men pointed a pistol at him (Drake) as he came near, motioned to a long lien of autos and said: "Up front, Buddy."

Two crosses were burned in Mumford last night, and one in Talladega, Howell said. An investigation was begun by Talladega County authorities.

Folsom to Assign Police.

A Talladega newspaper correspondent quoted Governor James E. Folsom as saying in a telephone conversation he would assign State highway patrolmen "to make a full investigation" of the case.

Mrs. Daisy Inez Lewis, widowed mother of three children, said another band of robed men pulled up in front of her home in Mumford. Their horns began blowing and lights blinking, she said.

"Next thing I knew," Mrs. Lewis said, "there was a cross burning in the front yard."

She said the hooded and robed men stood in the yard, watched the cross burn a few minutes, then drove off.

After the crosses were burned in Mumford, Howell said, a group of citizens of that community armed themselves and went in search of the robed men.

Folsom Gunning For Hooded Mobs

Gov. James E. Folsom called on Alabamians yesterday to report tag numbers of automobiles taking part in demonstrations by hooded mobs.

He announced that he has ordered highway patrol re-enforcements into the Jefferson County area where increased activity by the Ku Klux Klan has been reported recently.

The governor suggested that tags be reported to the nearest highway patrol office, newspaper or radio station.

"I've done all I can but call out the National Guard," he said. "I'm not going to leave any stone unturned to stop it and don't believe local officers will either."

KKK Parades In Tuscaloosa

TUSCALOOSA, ALA., June 11 —(AP)—One hundred and twenty-six men in regalia of the Ku Klux Klan paraded through the business district of Tuscaloosa tonight on foot.

The party, most of them traveling in automobiles bearing Jefferson County license tags, assembled in a city park at about 8 p.m. They parked their cars and stood around about 30 minutes, many being without masks, before marching through the downtown section.

The parade was orderly, some posing for pictures as they marched past the office of the Tuscaloosa News. The News recently ran a series of articles strongly condemning activities of the Klan in Tuscaloosa County.

Hooded Band Invades Home, Strikes Woman

Alabama Grandmother, 42, Says Cross Burned as She Stood in Nightgown

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., June 11 (UP).—A forty-two-year-old white grandmother who recently underwent a brain operation, charged today that a band of hooded men broke into her home, struck her on the head and forced her, as she stood in her nightgown, to watch a cross burning.

Mrs. Hugh McDanal, wife of a night-shift transport driver, is still recuperating from the operation. She said she was talking on the telephone to a friend last night when 100 hooded and robed persons gathered in front of her house and "at least ten" broke through the front door.

Although still weak from the operation, Mrs. McDanal said she picked up a shotgun and denied the intruders, who threatened to "string up" her and her husband if they heard "any other reports from neighbors" about immorality, dancing nude on the front porch and selling whisky. She denied their charges.

Mrs. McDanal said she lifted the hoods from the faces of several of the group and was hit on the head by one man and on the arm by another. One arm was bruised and her head bore a small cut from the encounter.

She said the group was at her house for thirty minutes and that it was thirty more minutes before two deputies from the Jefferson County Sheriff's office arrived in response to the request for aid relayed by her friend to whom she was telephoning. The Sheriff's office said it had no report on the request, but confirmed that the Ku-Klux Klan paraded last night in the Crumley Chapel area, where Mrs. McDanal lives.

The McDanals have been living in the house for two years. She said she had a twenty-four-year-old married daughter and an eight-month-old grandson.

"KKK Leave Town" Order Phoned

About 11:45 p.m. and 4:30 a.m. Friday night, March —, someone purporting to be a member of the Ku Klux Klan called the residence of James L. Breeding, 2912 32nd Place, North, stating that he represented the Klan, demanding that all renters at that address be out of Birmingham in 24 hours.

Living with Mr. Breeding are his daughters and a niece. A man and his wife live in the rear. The niece says the voice of the caller was that of a white man and that he spoke as if he meant business.

The police were called followed by a visit to the City Hall in an effort to see what the city could offer in the way of protection. It is reported the police advised that they may be called if anything funny was observed and that Breeding give the FBI full details.

A woman answering the phone at the Breeding's home says the FBI instructed Mr. Breeding to defend his family and home.

An estimated upwards of 20 men armed themselves and waited throughout the 24 hour period for the "Klan" to strike. The plan it seems was to shoot to kill and ask questions later.

Whether this incident was KKK inspired or was the work of some pranks has not been determined as we go to press.

Asked To Look Into Smithfield Bombing Threat

City Employe Who Told Negro To Move Identified

Federal and city investigations of a Ku Klux Klan threat to bomb a Negro family out of a North Smithfield home loomed as possibilities today.

The U. S. Department of Justice was asked to investigate the threat to determine whether civil rights of the family were violated.

At the same time, Birmingham Police Chief Floyd Eddins said he will personally investigate the case.

The man making the threat was identified by Chief Eddins as Robert E. Chambliss, an employe of the city's garage at 315 South 19th Street.

* * *

WILLIE GERMAN, a Negro, moved his furniture into 1100 11th Avenue, North, Saturday. While the last pieces were being put in place, a man who said he was a city employe and officer in the Robert E. Lee Chapter of the Ku Klux Klan, told German to get his family out by midnight.

The house is only one block away from the spot where three Negro homes were bombed several months ago. The Klansman told German the same thing would happen to his house if he stayed on.

Shortly thereafter, the Negro complied with a request by City Building Inspector H. E. Hagood to move out. Mr. Hagood told German the house is in an area zoned for white residences.

When Mr. Hagood arrived at the home Saturday, he told the Negro that he was sent there to "protect" German if he respected the city code concerning zoning. He added, "I won't be responsible for what happens if you go on and move in. We have some pretty hot heads around here."

Chambliss lives at 2505 32nd Avenue, North. That is in North Birmingham, but not near the North Smithfield area under dispute.

Chambliss was contacted at the city's repair shop this afternoon and asked if he had anything to say.

"I've got nothing to say except I've got no use for The News," he said. He would not let the photographer take his picture.

Mayor Cooper Green, who has supervision over the repair shop where Chambliss works, promised a "thorough investigation" of the incident. He said there will be "no recommendations" until after the investigation.

Zoning in the North Smithfield area has been a red-hot issue for months. A public hearing on the question is slated for May 31 at City Hall.

KKK Roundup

Five Alabama Investigators Join Search For Men Who Hit Birmingham Woman

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., June 12 —(AP)— Five state investigators today joined the search for the robed night riders who slapped and threatened a white woman here last week.

The robed and hooded men invaded the home of Mrs. Hugh McDanal on Birmingham's outskirts Friday night, pulled her into the yard and left a cross burning there.

A similar group invaded a cafe at nearby Brookside about 30 minutes earlier. There they took Steve Marshlar, the proprietor, to the rear and threatened him. They also burned a cross.

State investigators were assigned by Attorney General Albert A. Carmichael. They joined Jefferson County officers.

County Solicitor Emmett Perry said today he was ready to ask that the grand jury be called into session as soon as any information on the night prowlers was available.

At Montgomery, Carmichael issued a statement in which he called the robed gang "mobsters and gangsters," and "puppets" manipulated by men in "plush carpet" offices. He blamed the Ku Klux Klan for the two incidents.

Meantime, members of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People today petitioned Gov. James E. Folsom to "take some action to stop the lawless raids of hooded bands in the Birmingham area."

Twenty-three NAACP delegates were present at the meeting here. They came from Anniston, Pell City, Huntsville, Birmingham, Fairfield, Montgomery and Jasper.

Strike Twice Hooded Men

Woman, Cafe Man Victims Of Gangs Near Birmingham

Hooded men, reportedly brandishing pistols, paid two calls of terror in Jefferson County last night.

Mrs. Hugh McDanal, of Westwood (Crumley's Chapel), reported that a mob of about 20 masked men invaded her home last night while her husband was away.

Mrs. McDanal said the men struck her twice, threatened and abused her and left a fiery cross burning in her yard.

Either the same or another group of hooded men drove into the little mining village of Brookside and invaded a cafe.

They took the proprietor of the cafe, Steve Marshlar into the rear of the restaurant and reportedly threatened him, but did not strike or harm him.

Open-mouthed patrons who had been eating and drinking in the cafe sat silently while the hooded men took possession of the place.

Sheriff Holt McDowell today assigned three deputies to "investigate and make arrests" in the two calls of terror made last night by hooded men in Jefferson County. The deputies are Earl Cooper, T. W. Docherty and J. L. (Red) Boggan.

Solicitor Emmett Perry called on Bankhead Bates, director of the State Department of Public Safety, to cooperate with local law enforcement officers in obtaining evidence in the case.

The solicitor said he would ask the court to call the grand jury back into session when sufficient evidence has been obtained to justify prosecution of any person participating in last night's incidents.

HERE'S THE WAY Mrs. McDanal described the incident:

She was talking by phone with a friend when she heard someone at the front door. She told the friend to hold on while she went to investigate.

When she opened the Venetian blinds on the door she saw two robed figures and noticed a line of cars parked on the highway. She thought it was "kids having some fun" and asked what they wanted.

Two men, hooded and robed in white, and carrying pistols, told her to open the door. They said, "We want you."

Mrs. McDanal had opened the door part way. She slammed it shut and ran to the phone. She yelled into it, "Call the police."

Then she headed for a back bedroom where a shotgun is kept. She spilled the shells while trying to load the gun. Meanwhile, the men, after pounding on the door, broke out a pane of glass, reached in and unlocked the doorlatch.

Four of them ran into the bedroom. She was hit on the head. The shotgun was grabbed from her. At that point, she jumped from person to person and lifted the hoods from the faces of all four men.

"We could kill you for that," one of them told her. He grabbed her arms, just above the wrists, and held her. She has slight bruises to testify to the strength of the grip.

The man with the shotgun ran out of the house. The gun has not yet been found.

While the four men held her in the bedroom, other robed men poured into the house. They ransacked closets and searched through her household goods.

* * *

THE PHONE started ringing. When Mrs. McDanal attempted to answer it, she was again struck on the head. One of the men took the phone off the hook temporarily, then dropped it back in place.

She asked, "What is this all about?"

"You're going with us," was the reply.

She was dragged out of her home onto the front lawn. There, just a few feet off the Jasper Highway, a six-foot cross was burning.

Then men told her neighbors had complained about her. They asked for her husband. He was out of the county on his delivery route for a bakery company.

"Well, we're after him too," the Kluxers said.

"Please tell me, what is this all about?"

"You know very well what it's about."

When Mrs. McDanal insisted that she had no idea of the cause she was told that neighbors had complained that her home was being used "to bring men and women together, and also to sell whisky."

Mrs. McDanal said she was astounded at the "stupidity" of the charges and told them: "I'm certainly not guilty of any such thing as that. I know now that I have nothing to fear, no matter what you try to do. I am innocent."

* * *

SHE SAID they laughed when she told them, "The law is coming."

"We're the law ourselves," they replied. "And even if someone is sent out, there will be only two of them."

After finding out that the woman could not be intimidated, the hooded men decided to leave. They gave this parting warning:

"We're going to leave you here now. If we hear anything else, we'll be back to bomb your house—or burn it down. And we'll be back to see you."

* * *

IMMEDIATELY after the men left, Mrs. McDanal called the sheriff's office. Then she notified the Federal Bureau of Investigation, but was told the FBI could not help her unless asked to do so by one of the local enforcement authorities.

She said it took deputies almost an hour to arrive at her home. She added that she is preserving several places where the intruders left fingerprints while ramsacking the house. She said the deputies did not take any fingerprints, and that she did not think to ask them about it.

"The deputies told me," she said, "that they could do very little unless I can identify at least one of the men."

* * *

ASKED IF SHE could identify any of the men, Mrs. McDanal said, "I believe I do know a few of the men. I feel I positively could identify one of them. My husband will be here in the morning. I'll talk it over with him before making a decision as to what I shall do."

The Westwood woman said she believed the entire incident 'may have been the result of a neighborhood grudge.

She left the Jefferson-Hillman Hospital on April 5 after being treated for a month after an operation for a brain hemorrhage. She still is unable to do very much housework, and still is convalescing from the operation.

* * *

HERE IS AN ACCOUNT of the Brookside affairs as described by Mrs. John Marshler, sister-in-law of the cafe man who was visited by the robed mob.

"About 16 cars full of men wearing hoods, some of them with guns, drove into Brookside between 9 and 9:30 last night.

"My 7-year-old girl, Peggy, was with my husband and me at our radio radio shop near the cafe. We had been trying out a television set.

"My little girl saw the robed men — and so did a good many other people. The child followed the men into the cafe. She was so nervous over it all that she couldn't get to sleep until 4 o'clock this morning.

The girl greeted the robed men with "Hello, Ku Kluxers," Mrs. Marshlar said.

Mrs. Marshlar said the robed men took Steve Marshlar to the rear of the cafe and told him: "You've got to keep those niggers down."

One of the robed men also told Marshlar, she said: "We're tired of the Catholics running this town." (Marshlar is a member of the Russian Orthodox Church.)

Brookside was party settled many years ago by Russian refugees, many of whom are members of the Orthodox Church.

* * *

MRS. MARSHLAR said Steve Marshlar's sister was in the restaurant when the robed men entered the place.

"She cooks for her sister on week-ends. She had a nervous breakdown about three years ago and the excitement last night has left her in a highly nervous state,' Mrs. Marshlar said.

Mrs. Marshlar said she knew of no reason for the call by the robed men, but that "It might have been because some people have said they didn't want the Russian Communists running the town."

Brookside Police Officer E. B. Brooks could not be reached for a statement today, but Mrs. Marshlar said he was one of the onlookers when the hooded men called at the cafe last night.

Mrs. Marshlar's husband, John is a member of the Brookside Town Council.

Westwood, where Mrs. McDanal lives formerly was known as Crumley's Chapel.

Both communities are in the northwestern part of the county.

Woman Prescribes 'Swift Kick' For Ku Klux Klan

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — (ANP) —A white housewife told an inquiring reporter of the Birmingham Post here last Wednesday that the state of Alabama **"ought to give the Klan a good swift kick in the pants." The woman was replying to the reporter's questions of "What do you think the state of Alabama oought to do about the Ku Klux Klan?"**

Not only did she recommend a "swift kick" but she also said, "All the members ought to be deported to Europe or some other place I know of." After all, she added "the state of Alabama should be powerful enough to stop a bunch of hoodlums from burning crosses and beating people."

Three other white citizens expressed similar views. One, a housewife, felt the Klan's actions "are giving the state a bad name in the eyes of the nation. I don't think its the legislature's problem about what to do with it. I think it's the problem of every citizen of Alabama."

An auto company worker believe the KKK "should be abolished once and for all." He didn't know how it could be done and didn't think the legislators knew either, but firmly stated "whether it wants to or not, the legislature is going to find out that the Klan is one of its biggest problems this year."

THREATENS TO SHOOT 12-YEAR-OLD WHITE BOY WHO KICKS OVER BURNING KLAN CROSS

Cleveland Herald

TALLADEGA, Ala., Feb. 21—(Special)—Sheriff Earl Howell reported here today, that hooded bands had burned 3 fiery crosses in this area over the week end, and in one case threatened to shoot citizens who interfered with them

"It is time all law abiding citizens rise and co-operate with law enforcement officials to help stamp out such outrages," Howell declared. Cleveland Ohio

Crosses were burned in the yard of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Drake, and Mrs. Daisy Inez Lewis, and in an open field. Cross-Owen Drake, 12-year-old son of the Drakes, kicked over the cross burning in his yard, while the hooded figures were still watching it burn, the sheriff said, whereupon one klansdrew a revolver and shouted: "I ought to shoot you for that."

Klansmen Invade 3 Alabama Towns

Pittsburgh Courier

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. — Seventy-five automobiles loaded with hooded figures participated in a three-city Ku Klux Klan parade late Saturday night.

The parade flowed through the streets of Tuscaloosa, Northport and Holt, and a cross was reportedly burned in the front of a Negro's home in Holt.

Sheriff John Henry Suther claimed he was investigating the incident, but that he heard no reports of violence in connection with the motorcade. About one-half of the automobiles had Jefferson (Birmingham) County license plates.

KKK Stage Parades In Two Ala. Towns

Pittsburgh Courier

BRIGHTON, Ala.—A fifty automobile caravan carrying men dressed in the regalia of the Ku Klux Klan paraded here and in Bessemer the night of Dec. 22.

A police escort led the robed and hooded paraders. The cars coursed through the Negro section of both cities in a demonstration. Sat. 1-1-49

We Don't Need The Klan

(From The Tuscaloosa News)

Birmingham News

Friday night's parade of hooded and masked men was a publicity stunt which can be attributed to the Ku Klux Klan.

It was an indication that efforts are being made here to organize a group in Tuscaloosa County, but we believe that our people will keep in mind that the Klan in recent years has been primarily a racket organization which gathered in as many "suckers" as it could find.

We do not need the Klan in Tuscaloosa County. It is an organization which appeals to prejudice. Past experience has proved that mobs of hooded men will take the law into their own hands even to the extent of committing murder. (Remember the whipping deaths by hooded mobs in Atlanta a few years ago?) Thur. 3-31-49

We see nothing manly or courageous in an organization which will not show its collective face. If the Klan is a worthy organization why must it work in secrecy and limit ging this long, when state after state has its public appearances to occasions when it members hide behind hoods and sheets?

We have a far greater need for understanding, tolerance and unity in our country at present than for organizations which spread prejudice and appeal to the mass public mind to fear or distrust our neighbors.

We in the South urge others to leave us alone and let us work out our problems. That is good, sound doctrine. The Klan is working against those of us who want to work out our own headaches, for every time a mob shows its strength or takes a situation into its own hands it is furnishing ammunition to those who would force their own outside ideas on this section. Thur. 3-31-49

Whether the Klan is to be active in Tuscaloosa County is a matter for serious thought. In our opinion, we are much better off without bands of hooded and robed men who have not the courage to perform their acts openly and courageously.

Alabama KKK Stages Motorcade; Burns Huge Cross At Ball Park

Atlanta Daily World

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. —(SNS)—A Motorcade consisting of twenty-five cars of robed men paraded the streets of this West Alabama City and its neighboring surburbs Friday night after leaving a flaming cross on a Negro baseball Diamond at Holt, an unincorporated community near here.

Although local police officials estimated the number of Cars at 25 with 20 cars bearing Jefferson County (Birmingham) Tags. Other observers have placed the number at twice police figures with double the estimated number of Tuscaloosa County tags. Tue. 3-29-49

According to information gained from reliable sources. The group formed near the intersection of the Birmingham highway and the Holt road going to the Central Foundry Co's Negro baseball diamond where a large cross was ignited. An intoxicated resident of this section living near the ball park was present and is alleged to have created some confusion at the scene which gave rise to reports that a Negro had been captured and beaten by the group. This was later proven untrue. Leaving Holt the robed band continued through the city of Tuscaloosa and the town of Northport visiting the business districts and Negro residential sections.

There is considerable speculation as to the causes for the appearance of the group as Negro-white relations are considered to be fine. In all quarters it is very evident that the parade had little or no effect in creating fear on the part of Negro residents. Many colored citizens calmly observed the motorcade as it passed their homes merely making sarcastic remarks about the entire proceeding. The hooded group passed the Industrial High school where three hundred Negro veterans were in classes. Almost to a man the group viewed the parade in disgust.

Many white citizens are very much upset by the appearance of the mob in this section and have been very loud in their condemnations. The Tuscaloosa news, white daily, in a front page editorial Sunday morning, thoroughly rebuked the Klan and its like for the exhibition declared that there was absoultely no need for such organizations. It urged that those responsible be punished.

The only possible reasons for the parade are:

(1) The refusal of a Tuscaloosa county court to give a local Negro charged with the murder of a white loan operator a death sentence, Alfred Thomas was sentenced to 30 years in prison for the murder of Jack Wheat, Loan Company operator. Tue. 3-29-49

(2) It is probably an attempt made by certain, quote dry quote forces to intimidate the county's 2,500 Negro electroates from voting in the liquor election Tuesday. Observers feel that the vast majority of Negro voters are going to vote for the repeal of the county's quote bone dry quote status. This question is being guardedly discussed as most of the persons heading the quote dry quote side are leading citizens of the community and would personally have little or nothing to do with any attempt to create a distasteful situation.

(3) The central Foundry Co. Manufacturers of Pipe and Fittings has over 1,$$$ Negro employees. A baseball team is maintained yearly for Negro workers and the company is rather lavish in its efforts to have first class team in both players and equipment. A first class park is provided by the company and two weeks ago a large sum was spent in making repairs and putting the ground in shape for the coming season. A group of nearby white residents wanted to use the field for a motorcycle contest but was prevented from doing so by a Negro leader. Many of the group are alleged to have left promising to return and seek revenge.

Probe of Cross Burning in Talladega Dropped

TALLAGEGA, Ala. (ANP) — State police officers announced here Friday that they were dropping the investigation into recent cross-burnings in Talladega County. The officers had been searching for a week for the hooded and robed men who burned crosses in front of two homes in Munford community.

C. T. Donaldson, chief of the State Bureau of Investigation at Montgomery, said, "We have checked all rumors and leads we have received without learning the identity of members of the gang. Federal authorities who had studied a threatening letter, have not formally entered the case.

Folsom Order Strikes at 'Hooded' Mobs

Atlanta Constitution
Atlanta Georgia

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—(AP)—Gov. James E. Folsom yesterday ordered all Alabama law enforcement officers to arrest persons operating automobiles with concealed license tags, such as have been reported in recent Ku Klux Klan parades.

Folsom, here to board a train for Washington, said the order had been sent all sheriffs and State enforcement men.

Klan activities in Alabama recently have included the burning of crosses in Munford and Tuskegee.

The Governor said his order meant that "mobs, hooded or unhooded, are not going to rule Alabama."

Talladega To Stop Cars With Covered Plates

Montgomery Advertiser

TALLADEGA, ALA., Feb. 22 —(AP)— Sheriff Earl Howell said today Talladega County officers from now on will stop and investigate all automobiles with license plates covered or obscured in any way.

He made the statement in commenting on the activities of hooded and robed men who burned crosses in Talladega and Munford last Saturday night. The men were in automobiles with covered license plates.

Regarding the investigation, the sheriff said "we haven't much to go on yet."

Agents of the State Bureau of Investigation and State Department of Public Safety also are investigating the incidents.

Klan Seeking To Gain Hold In Alabama

Montgomery Advertiser

Montgomerian Refuses To Organize Unit; Teams Active

Montgomery Ala.

By JOE AZBELL

The Federated Ku Klux Klan, Inc., is continuing its organization program in Alabama.

An organizing group has attempted to reorganize a KKK klavern in Montgomery. A well-known Montgomerian, contacted by the group, has refused to help in organizing a klavern here. He said the organizing group wanted him to act as "head organizer." Tues. 3-15-49

Other recent activities of the group have included an organizing tour of Centreville, West Blocton, and Brent, Ala.

Indications are that the Klan met with lukewarm receptions in those towns. Several other west Alabama counties also have been solicited in the last three months by the organizing crews.

Traveling in new model cars, the organizers work in teams of two or three.

The "Original Southern Klans, Inc.," of Macon, Ga., is said to be gaining ground in east Alabama, where a constant program of organization by both the "Original Southern Klan, Inc.," and the Federated Ku Klux Klan,

Inc., has been reported for the last few months.

Meets Opposition

Grand Dragon Samuel Green, of Atlanta, has stated that the "Original Southern Klans, Inc.," has been working along the Alabama-Georgia border, but has met opposition from Federated Klan groups, who are attempting to keep Alabama klaverns "exclusive." *Tues 3-15-49*

A spokesman for the Secretary of State said here yesterday that there is no Ku Klux Klan organization chartered or licensed by that office to do business in Alabama. The only charter on file, the spokesman said, is the "revoked" one of the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, of which the late Hamp Draper was agent. The spokesman said no correspondence has been carried on recently with any KKK group, and that there have been no indications that any KKK group is planning to secure a state charter.

The Federated group isn't hiding the identity of its Alabama home office, however, and is not averse to taking "contributions or suggestions," as evidenced by a slip, distributed by the Klansmen and Klan organizers.

The slip states:

"For information about the Ku Klux Klan's stand for God, Home and Country, any suggestions or contributions, write the Federated Ku Klux Klan, Inc., P. O. Box 2401, Birmingham, Ala."

The slip was interpreted by a former Klan member to mean: "Suggestions" are reports of any Negroes or white people who have not been living "righteously"; "contributions" mean "cold cash" to carry on the KKK organizing program.

Contact Ex-Klansmen

Reports show the Klan's general organizing methods are to call on past members of defunct Klan groups or to contact persons who have openly attacked groups the KKK opposes.

A citizen, who has attended Klan meetings, said that former members of the defunct Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, which was granted permission by the Secretary of State in 1924 to organize Alabama klaverns, but whose charter has been "revoked," are best prospects for the Klan organizers to call on.

Signs, grips, and ceremonies of the groups are said to be similar except for new passwords and a few "reformed" beliefs.

Commenting on the Klan's organizing visit in Centreville, Jim Oakley, newspaper publisher and town official, said: "We are not having any trouble in Bibb County that cannot be corrected through legal processes. We believe a Klan organization at this time would stir up strife and turmoil and would not serve any great benefit. We were approached on this matter about two years ago by people from another county. We told them, at that time, that Bibb County citizens were living peaceful, normal lives, and that we were opposed to having an organization here to create disturbances." *Tues 3-15-49*

Newest effort by the group is the organization of a female klan. A "Mrs. Cross" (sic fiery cross), of Birmingham, representing the female group, attempted to rent a Birmingham hall for an organizing meeting, but found most halls barred to any type of KKKism. The organizing meeting, scheduled for March 9, was not held as planned, and "Mrs. Cross" was called out of the city because of the illness of a sister, a spokesman said. "Mrs. Cross" was not available yesterday for comment on whether another date has been set for her organizing meeting of the female Klan, which she calls a "civic club."

Folsom Warns Hooded Mobs In Alabama

Montgomery Advertiser

Governor Issues Order To Arrest Drivers With Covered Plates

Birmingham Alabama

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., Feb. 23 —(AP)—Gov. James E. Folsom today said "mobs, hooded or unhooded, are not going to rule Alabama." *Thur. 2-24-49*

He directed all Alabama law enforcement officers to arrest persons operating automobiles with concealed license tags, such as have been reported in recent Ku Klux Klan parades.

Folsom made the announcement at a press conference here. Shortly afterwards, he boarded a train for Washington where he plans to attend the Jackson Day dinner Thursday night.

Activities of hooded and robed gangs in Alabama have been reported frequently in Alabama in recent months. Three crosses were burned in Talladega County last Saturday night.

'Home Is Castle'

"I want to make this plain," Folsom told a reporter, "a man's home is his castle. However he wants to defend it is up to the man."

The goernor said members of hooded mobs would be held personally responsible for any act of the mob. He added that owners of automobiles used in any such demonstration also would be held responsible. *Thur. 2-24-49*

Asked if he couldn't revoke the charter of the Klan in Alabama, Folsom said:

"I don't think so, but we are going to stop these gangs."

A copy of the governor's letter to law enforcement officers was released by his office in Montgomery.

It cited the Alabama law requiring cars to cary plainly visible license plates, and added:

"It has come to my attention that robed and hooded mobs are moving their cars over streets and highways with tags removed or concealed in violation of the laws of this state.

Seeking Road Money

"I am sure I can depend on you to see that the laws of the state are observed and abided by to the end that all persons and their property are fully protected."

Folsom was accompanied to Washington by State Sen. Broughton Lambeth, Alexander City; Maj. Gen. James S. Saliba, state adjutant general; Pitt Tyson Maner, assistant state industrial relations director; Col John T. Moore, and several other National Guard officers.

Gov. Folsom said he has no plans to see President Truman while in Washington.

"I am going straight to the U. S. Bureau of Public Roads and try to get more primary money allotted to Alabama for construction of secondary roads," he said. "I'm not going after any specific amount, I'm just going to get as much as I can."

Talladega Boy Defies Klan, Kicks Down Burning Cross

Montgomery Advertiser Montgomery Ala

TALLADEGA, ALA., Feb. 20—(AP)—A 12-year-old boy today told Sheriff Earl Howell he defied a group of hooded and armed men who set fire to a cross in front of his father's home.

Owen Drake, son of Dick Drake, resident of nearby Mumford community, said he kicked the burning cross down and doused it in a water hole last night. *Mon. 2-21-49*

The youngster said he saw the fire and ran out ahead of his father.

Sheriff Howell quoted the elder Drake as saying one of the hooded men pointed a pistol at him (Drake) as he came near, motioned to a long line of autos and said: "Up front, buddy."

2 Crosses Burned

Two crosses were burned in Mumford last night, and one in Talladega, Howell said. An investigation was begun by Talladega County authorities.

A Talladega newspaper correspondent quoted Gov. James E. Folsom as saying in a telephone conversation he would assign state highway patrolmen "to make a full investigation" of the case.

Mrs. Daisy Inez Lewis, widowed mother of three children, said another band of robed men pulled up in front of her home in Mumford. Their horns began blowing and lights blinking, she said. *Mon. 2-21-49*

"Next thing I knew," Mrs. Lewis said, "there was a cross burning in the front yard."

She said the hooded and robed men stood in the yard, watched the cross burn a few minutes, then drove off.

Search Launched

After the crosses were burned in Mumford, Howell said, a group of citizens of that community armed themselves and went in search of the robed men.

Howell said Mrs. Dick Drake told of a parade of robed men that went past the Drake home on the night of Jan. 17.

The following Friday, she said, "I got a letter through the mail, postmarked Talladega. I thought it was someone playing a prank.

"It was silly. I didn't pay any attention to it," she added.

The elder Drake said he took four license numbers which he had turned over to the sheriff.

Chicago Defender Chicago Illinois 3-5-49

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — By contrast with the tolerance of klanrat stupidity and violence granted by the governor of Georgia, Governor James E. "Big Jim" Folsom this week issued orders to county sheriffs and state highway policemen to arrest drivers and riders in all vehicles which seek to hide or blot-out their license numbers. This is a favorite device of klanrats as they dash about the highways and county roads at nights bent on devilment.

The order came as a result of several cross burnings recently, most of them before the homes of white persons. The governor invited a "shotgun reception" for the klanrats in his statement at a press conference.

"Mobs, hooded or not hooded, are not going to rule Alabama," he said. "A man's home is his castle, and however he wants to defend it is entirely up to him."

The governor is reported interested in a state law to ban the wearing of hoods and robes in public appearances, but stated that he would not seek to rovoke the state charter of the klan at this time.

Folsom Strikes At Parades Staged By Ku Klux Klan

Courier Journal Louisville Ky

Birmingham, Feb. 23 (AP)—Governor James E. Folsom today ordered all Alabama law-enforcement officers to arrest persons operating automobiles with concealed license tags, such as have been reported in recent Ku Klux Klan parades.

Folsom, here to board a train for Washington, said the order had been sent all sheriffs and State enforcement men.

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The Governor said his order meant that "mobs, hooded or unhooded, are not going to rule Alabama."

Klan on Parade In Alabama Town

Pittsburgh Courier Pittsburgh Pa.

LANETT, Ala. — Forty automobiles, the lead car bearing a fiery cross, paraded through Negro neighborhoods here and at West Point, Ga., the night of Feb. 26. An estimated sixty hooded, robed men described as members of the Ku Klux Klans occupied the cars. They rode through the Chattahooche Valley undisturbed by police, it was said. *3-12-49*

KKK MASK IS OFF

Klan Has Been Using County Building

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Following is the first of a series of articles on the Ku Klux Klan. Information from a confidential but reliable source is the basis of The News series, which will continue for several days.)

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Ku Klux Klansmen have been holding meetings in the assembly room on the top floor of the County Activities Building for the last six Friday nights. These meetings have started at 7:30 o'clock and have lasted as long as three hours.

The Klansmen address each other as "Brother." Before being sworn in they have answered 10 questions and have taken a long obligation.

At the last meeting of the Klan in the County Activities Building, the local group had a high state Klan official as its guest. This man, who said he lives 17 miles out of Birmingham, gave instruction to the budding young Klan on how its members should act. He punctuated his remarks with profanity.

Speeches have been made at most all Klan meetings. Some more or less formal, some informal, and some even less formal than informal.

Among these speeches have been remarks clearly establishing the existence of prejudice in the organization against Catholics, Jews and negroes. Many of the meetings have been badly disorganized. Profanity has been used liberally by some members. Short, Anglo-Saxon words that are not spoken in polite company have been uttered in the confines of the hall.

Dirty stories have been told at the meetings. And without many of the Klansmen knowing his identity, a minister sat through such remarks Friday night before last. More than one Klansman was embarrassed when he revealed his identity.

But it was a layman, not the minister, who called the Klansmen down about their language, and he did it at the next meeting after the one attended by the minister.

How did a group of Klansmen, who were affiliated with an organization which the Attorney General of the United States has listed along with subversive groups, gain permission to use a county building?

How many members are in the Klan organization and are they influential people?

What is the status of the Klan organization in the state?

What goes on at a typical Klan meeting, and what do the members talk about?

Does the local organization have political implications? Do its members look ahead to the time when it will become a power politically and otherwise?

These and many other questions about the Klan will be answered in this series of articles, based upon information given to The News by a reliable source.

And does The News have the names of local members of the Klan?

That question, too, will be answered before this series is complete.

The first meeting of the Klan group was held in the courthouse. Subsequent meetings were held in the County Activities Building after permission had been gained under the name of the Tuscaloosa Social Club. Members of the Board of Revenue, in granting this permission, apparently had no inkling of the real nature of the group and probably did not know until now that the taxpayers of Tuscaloosa County have been furnishing a free meeting place for the Klan.

A meeting was announced, at the conclusion of last week's session, for 7:30 o'clock tonight at the old VFW lodge back of the lake bed which is being filled in with city garbage.

At its meeting last Friday night, with a state official of the Klan in attendance as an honored guest, the local group decided to move its meeting place to the old VFW lodge. Members agreed at that time to meet there at 2 p.m. Wednesday to cut grass and weeds and to clean up the inside in preparation for the next scheduled session tonight.

This meeting place, according to the announcement made to the group by the presiding officer, was to cost the Klan "just enough to help take care of the lights and water bill" inasmuch as cleanup work was to be done by the organization itself.

Old members of the local Klan group are aware of their connection with an organization considered subversive. They discussed this matter at a meeting several weeks ago.

When did the Klan get that designation? Here is the answer:

In March, 1947, President Truman issued executive order No. 9835 which stated: "The Loyalty Review Board shall currently be furnished by the Department of Justice the name of each foreign or domestic organization, association, movement, group or combination of persons which the Attorney General after appropriate investigation and determination designates as totalitarian, Fascist, Communist or subversive or as having adopted a policy of advocating of approving the commission of force and violence to deny others their rights under the constitution of the United States by unconstitutional means."

The Attorney General included the Ku Klux Klan on his first subversive list, issued November 24, 1947.

Then, in a letter to the Loyalty Review Board dated April 21, 1949, he listed the Association of Georgia Klans and the Original Southern Klans, Inc., as organizations which have adopted policies of advocating or approving the commission of acts of force and violence to deny others their rights under the constitution of the United States.

The local group is an offshoot of the Georgia organization.

According to the dictionary, a subversive organization is one which seeks "to cause the downfall, ruin, destruction of."

TOMORROW'S release in this exclusive News feature describes what goes on at a Klan meeting and gives details on a Klan official's instructions to a growing group.

Klansman Hits 'Dirty' Talk At KKK Meeting

(EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the second of a series of articles on the Ku Klux Klan in Tuscaloosa County. They are prepared from information furnished by an informant whose identity must remain undisclosed.)

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Two delegates from each of the approximately 30 Klans in Alabama were to have met at 1 p. m. today in Birmingham to adopt a constitution for the state group. As of a week ago last night, the Tuscaloosa Klan expected to be represented.

This meeting will have recommended to it for adoption the constitution of the original Knights of the Ku Klux Klan.

Information to this effect was given to local members of the Ku Klux Klan at their meeting of May 20 by a high official of the Klan who visited with the local group from Birmingham.

Listening to him were less than half of the approximately 40 enrolled members in the local group. Near the close of the meeting, one Klansmen protested against the manner in which sessions are conducted, saying that he knows some members are

staying away from meetings because of "indecent conversation."

The same member said he is tired of the general confusion which has existed at most Klan meetings.

"When a man is on the floor talking, keep your mouth shut until he finishes," he commanded his fellows. And he was not interrupted. "When he gets through, if you have anything to say, then you can say it."

This member said Klan meetings are held "for a purpose" and that they are no place for dirty stories.

His protest may have embarrassed the visiting official from Birmingham, who had sprinkled his speech with profanity prior to the protest.

While discussing a law to limit negro voting, he said "I don't give a damn how bad that rascal Supreme Court up there wants to kick it out, they can't until somebody makes a protest—and God pity the damned negro that makes a test of this just law."

Another member, protesting the listing of telephone numbers, said "them G . . d . . . operators' ears are as big as 10-gallon barrels." *Sat. 5-28-49*

And later, when the problem of attendance was under discussion, in connection with the new meeting place, a suggestion was made that if a crap game were announced "for the old VFW club, there'd be 300 in the s . . o . . a b . . . in 15 minutes.

In his talk preceding the protest, the state official told the local group that more than 30 Klan units exist in Alabama, but "only two or three are large Klans." He added that one group is operating illegally.

He said a constitution should have been adopted previously but that this probably would be done at the meeting today in Birmingham. He said it is necessary to establish a clean line of authority. Otherwise, "We might send some orders down here and some fellow might say 'What the hell have we got to do that for?' "

The Birmingham man said he has some robes for the local group but refused to tell a member of the Klan how to get to his house. "It's 17 miles from Birmingham, not on the main highway and hard to find if you've never been there," he alibied.

He further told the group that each Klan will be represented at the meeting in Birmingham today by two members, but that later each Klan's voting strength will be determined by the number of its members.

An interrupting Klansman referred to "Brother———," who apparently also is a high official in the state organization.

In instructing the Klansmen on their duties, the state official told them they never would be required to go out on Klan business against their will.

But, he emphasized, if a Klansman should answer a call he should make certain that he goes through with the duty assigned to him even if he does not know in advance what that duty will be.

"You won't know a damned thing about it when you get there anyway," he said. "If you are looking for some action, regardless of the danger in it, go if you want to go when you get a call. But don't tell another living soul. When you get back don't mention it." *Sat. 5-28-49*

The visitor cautioned the members about maintaining the security of their organization. He told them never to give an application to any outsider, that the best practice was to sign up a member and turn in his signed application to the Klan.

He described the Klan as "a wheel, within a wheel, within a wheel," and stated that a person could belong to the organization for 50 years and never learn all its secrets.

One Klansman, hanging on every word from the lips of the Klan official, murmured a "That's right" from the "amen" corner. *The News*

The visitor left his fellow Klansmen with a challenge:

"There's work to be done here some time," he said, "and we know it, even if we are not set up to take care of many cases—yet." *Tuscaloosa, Ala.*

(TOMORROW'S release in this exclusive Tuscaloosa News series tells how the Klan was afraid of a man they wouldn't admit. It also tells of the Klan secret handshake, the Klan obligation and reveals that the members of the local Klan do not know what is in the United States Constitution—which they swear in their obligation to uphold.)

Klan Afraid Of 'Bad Man'

The News. Tuscaloosa Ala.

THE MASK IS OFF

(THIS IS THE THIRD in a series of articles on the Tuscaloosa Klan. Information was obtained by The News from confidential but reliable sources. Another in the series will apear tomorrow.)

Sun. 5-29-4?

All applicants do not get into the Tuscaloosa Ku Klux Klan, but most of them do.

One poor fellow who wanted to get into the Klan actually went out with the Klansmen but when the time came to vote on his application it was rejected.

Probably this applicant, who lives in the eastern part of Tuscaloosa, doesn't know what happened between him and the Klan. For the decision made by the group was not to contact him and advise that he had been rejected as a member, but to just wait and hope that he would not show up for another meeting.

"I am afraid he will do us before we have a chance to do him," one member of the Klan said in discussing the man under consideration. Complaint was made that the man participated in a parade without a robe, that he "has been a sorry man all his life," and another indicated suspicion that the applicant had been too talkative.

"If Mr. ——— is the type of character you all say he is, there is no telling what kind of trick he may pull on us," the presiding officer summarized. "Nobody knows whether he will do anything, but when he finds out that he has been denied membership that's another matter."

Fear was expressed that the rejected applicant "knows our organization" too well.

No decision was made on what to do in the event the unwanted prospective member showed up. But that situation has not yet arisen.

Police Officer Too Busy For Meeting

Some applicants and Klan members have been absent for several meetings. Various excuses were relayed by members attending. One police officer was described as being busy on his job at the time of the Klan meetings; another backslider was in the doghouse" with his wife, who had clamped down after "he made two parades with us" and wouldn't let him out at night.

Some would-be members had trouble raising their $10. Although lax on the requirement at first, the Klansmen soon began to require that a man's full admission fee be paid before he was allowed to attend a meeting.

Attendance has been a problem. One member suggested a lottery, with each member being assessed a certain amount for the "pot" each meeting night. To win the "pot" a Klansman would have to be present. His suggestion was not given serious consideration.

Security of the Klan's secrets is another major problem to the Klansmen. One referred to "the safety of ourselves and our families" in warning against disclosures. Much time was spent at one meeting in demonstrating the Klan grip to incoming members, so that they would be able to demonstrate to any other Klansman their affiliation.

The Klan "is known among its members as a lefthanded organization" according to one member. The secret handshake involves use of the left hand and the turning of one hand in a manner which is a tip-off to whether the handshaker is a Klansman. The system of recognition by secret code, involving use of words beginning with a certain letter or letters, also was explained. Generally this code is used in a series of questions, which might begin with Do you know Mr. Abbott," or perhaps "Mr. Abel" or "Mr. Aaron.' '

KKK Initiation Ceremony Is Lengthy

The News

A Klansman swears that he will die before revealing the secrets of the organization. The initiation ceremony is lengthy. First come the 10 questions. One of the first ones is this: "Are you a native born, white, gentile American citizen." Catholic citizens also would hit a snag in the list.

The qualification, punctuated frequently with "I solemnly swear," I pledge on my sacred honor", "I promise' 'and such binding expressions, contains phraseology which would not be repugnant to any good American in most of its passages. It pledges allegiance to the nation and state, proper respect for law enforcement officers, adherence to the democratic system of government.

It goes on to bind the Klansman to perform the Klan duties assigned to him, to abide by its regulations ,and to rise above personal considerations in voting on new members. He promises "faithfulness in defending and protecting the homes, reputations, businesses and business interests of a Klansman or that of a Klansman's family." The obligation continues: "I swear that I will at any time, without hesitation, go to the assistance or rescue of a Klansman in any way at this call or demand. I will be truly klanish for the Klan." *Bum. 5-29-49*

The obligation does not prevent Klansmen from giving information on conversation against the United States or on a case of "malicious murder."

A Klansman called before a grand jury or subpoenaed as a witness in court would have to break his Klan oath or commit perjury if asked about other Klan matters. That is, unless he had his fingers crossed when he took the Klan obligation and oath.

The Klansmen get confused without knowing it.

One member stated that when the United States Constitution was written "they made the provision that all men are created equal." He further stated that the negro was a slave at the time and that obviously the Constitution was not intended to cover a situation like at present when the negro is a free man. *The News*

(Actually, the United States Constitution does not contain a phrase such as the speaker men- *Tuscaloosa Ala.*

The presiding officer, commenting on this viewpoint, said he never had thought about it in that way, "But it's true. At the time that was written into the Constitution of the United States, a negro was no more than a mule or a horse, and he was somthing that was sold in the market place. *The News*

"All men are born equal, more or less. Dr. Green (Atlanta Klan leader) said that refers to an American, an Englishman, a Chinaman or any of the white race. But it had no reference whatever to a negro, because no one at that time had ever thought of a negro as being anything except what he was at that time." *Tuscaloosa,*

The federal civil rights program was mentioned at this time and referred to as "something they are trying to cram down our throats." *Ala.*

Klan Looks Forward To Time When It Can 'Run The Town'

The Tuscaloosa News *Tuscaloosa, Ala.* *Mon. 5-31-49*

THE MASK IS OFF

(THIS IS THE FOURTH in a series of articles on the Tuscaloosa Klan. Information was obtained by The News from confidential but reliable sources. The final article in the series will appear tomorrow.)

Copyright, 1949, By Tuscaloosa News, Inc.

Political implications of the local Ku Klux Klan are apparent from statements made at recent meetings of the group and from the fact that the head of the local group is a possible candidate for the city commission.

On the night of May 6, an application for membership came before the Klan and the applicant was identified as a "possible candidate for sheriff." The presiding officer made this identification, but he did not comment to his Klansmen friends on his own political ambitions.

Although the applicant was passed unanimously, he had not attended a meeting two weeks later because the Klan had failed to notify him of his acceptance.

Objects To Senator Mize's Bill

One member took vigorous exception to Senator H. H. Mize's proposed anti-Klan legislation. The objector said he had known Mr. Mize all his life, "but when he goes to bucking the Klan he has stepped on my toes."

He said that he thought every Klansman should bear in mind that Mr. Mize probably would run for office again and that "any man who drops to what he is standing for shouldn't be fit for a public office.

"I am not prejudiced," he continued. "I went to school with him and he never has done me any harm. But he had little to do, with all he had to do, to sidetrack his business and stick his nose into something that doesn't concern him."

The speaker said it is hard enough to organize the Klan in Tuscaloosa County without such a handicap, and that people "don't like the Klan because they know it's going to do things they oppose." He expressed the further opinion that opposition to the Klan may be based upon fear of "a person getting caught doing something he shouldn't."

Representative A. K. Callahan was mentioned briefly by the speaker, who expressed doubts as to his friendship for the Klan. *Tuscaloosa, Ala. News 5-31-49*

Situations exist in Tuscaloosa which should be corrected, he told his fellow Klansmen. He mentioned the elevators at the First National Bank Building, saying that negroes are crowded in with whites. He then said that negro dishwashers in some local restaurants laugh and talk with white waitresses.

"I think that if we will just hold off long enough to get a good organization going here, then we should just plain go out and cold get them," he stated.

"Let's Clean Out Rough Stuff"

The Klansmen applauded his speech, although such demonstrations are rare, and the presiding officer referred to his address as "giving us a keynote."

One member, denying charges that the Klan is a hoodlum outfit, said it is an organization for the betterment of mankind. He expressed regret that "there are people of our own Protestant religion who are definitely on the other side. And if there happens to be a pimp or a Communist in here tonight, so help me God I hope I never find it out, because I would be one of the ones to resist him."

Cautioning all member to be extremely careful about picking new Klansmen, the speaker said "a bad man in this organization can do us a lot of damage.

"We have got to grow," he continued, "to be powerful enough to work on the big men."

Referring to a conversation with a Birmingham Klansman about the newspapers there, he continued:

"One of them, I believe he said, was Jewish or Catholic owned. The other one is Protestant owned. He said he hated the Jewish-owned paper because of the attitude they took toward people, but he said he hated it worst of all that Protestants up there have let one of the newspapers be influenced by a Catholic in his writing to fight against the things that we have lived for and our fathers have died for."

Klan Housecleaning Needed

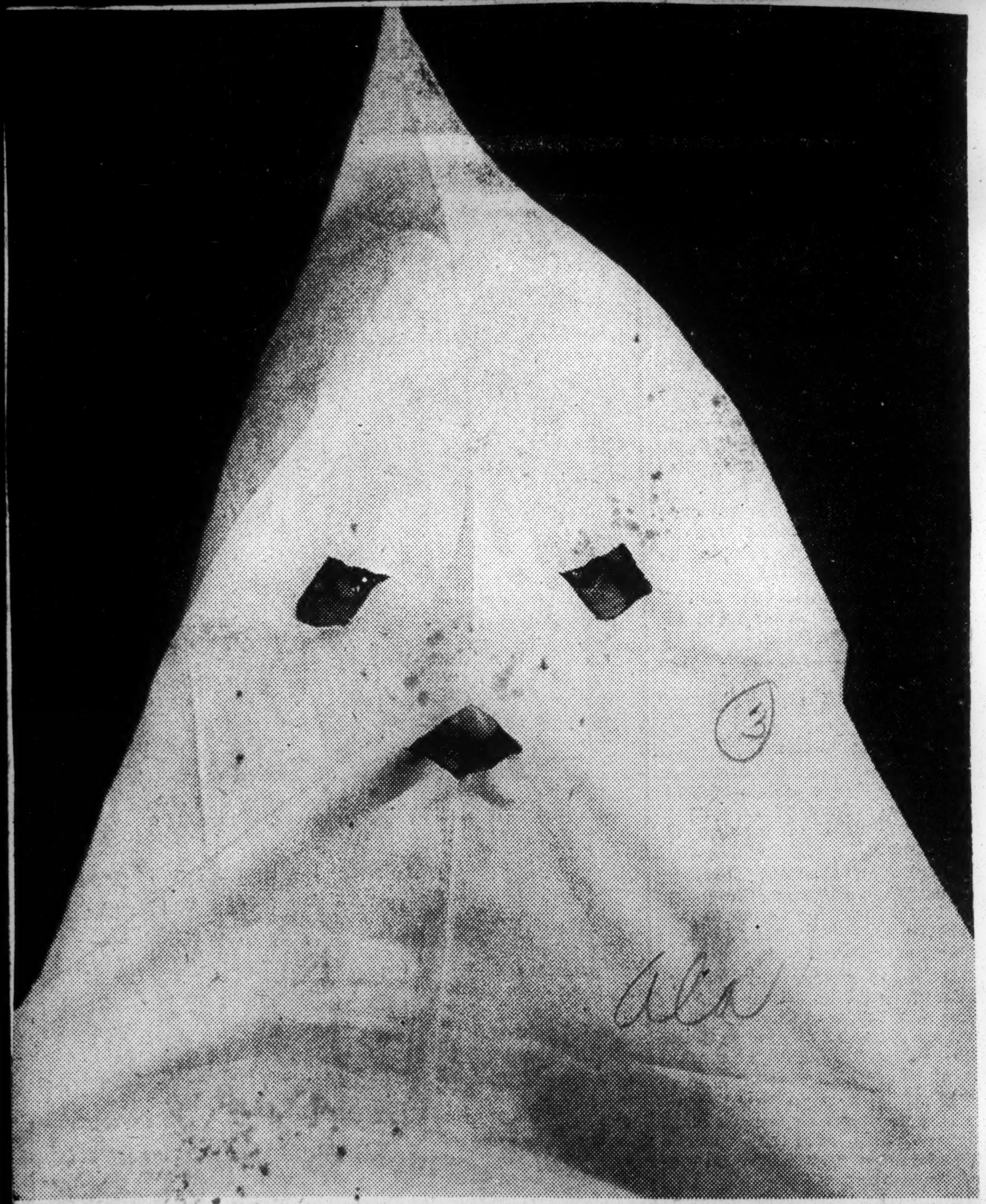
The News, Tuscaloosa, Ala.

Then the speaker turned on his own organization, stating that in his opinion not all members were worthy and that the Klan should have a housecleaning.

The presiding officer admitted that disquieting reports had reached him. But he said the organization was new and was not in a position to do much investigating. *Mon. 5-31-49*

"If our Klan was operating and functioning properly, some things that have happened would have been investigated and some action taken," he said. "If we have been guilty of that, let's not let it happen again."

(Tomorrow's further exposure of the Klan in Tuscaloosa deals with the identities of the men in the Klan. Serious consideration has been given to the problem of whether to print—or not to print—the names of members and of applicants who have been approved for membership. The news decision will be announced tomorrow in the concluding article of this exclusive series.)



TUSCALOOSA'S BOSS?—With the Klan in power, some man behind a mask could become Tuscaloosa's boss. He and other men behind masks could make decisions affecting your reputation, your family's safety and possibly your life. This man is not a Klansman, but a model with a pillowcase over his head. (Tuscaloosa Engraving Photo.)

ALABAMA OUTLAWS WEARING OF HOODS

Ny. Times

Legislature Votes and Folsom Signs Bill Limiting Masks to Holiday Fetes, Children

New York, N.Y.

MONTGOMERY, Ala., June 28 (UP)—Alabama made it a crime today to wear masks or hoods on the street.

Only holiday revelers and children will be allowed to wear masks or hoods under a bill which went through the legislature and was signed today by Gov. James E. Folsom.

Tues. 6-29-49

The first Southern legislation to unmask the Ku Klux Klan and imitator groups became effective when the Governor signed it into law within an hour after the House passed it.

Similar bills failed in Florida and Georgia this year.

Immediately, law-enforcement officers called on the public to help make the statute effective by reporting every appearance of hooded groups.

The measure was passed after nearly a dozen acts of violence by hooded groups were reported in the Birmingham area. Officers there said its passage marked "the beginning of the end" of such terrorism.

Fining or Jailing Provided

Wearing of masks in public or in a private intrusion will be punishable by up to $500 fine or a year in jail.

The law, sponsored by Senator Henry Mize of Tuscaloosa, was passed by the House by a vote of 84 to 4 five minutes after it reached the floor. The Senate approved it June 17 by a 23-to-3 vote without debate after Governor Folsom demanded its passage as the most important legislation of the moment.

The Mize laws says that "no person over 16 years of age shall appear or enter upon any lane, walk, [illegible] public way or highway [illegible] of this [illegible] or of any municipality or county in this state [illegible] a mask or other device which conceals his identity. "Nor shall any such person demand entrance or admission to or enter upon the premises or into the enclosure or house of any other person while wearing a mask or device which conceals his identity."

The law thus emphasized the sanctity of the home and personal premises. It was broadened to forbid the maskers to hold a demonstration on private property without first obtaining the owner's written permission.

Any outdoor demonstration by the Klan thus would be prohibited or regulated. The law specifically exempted the wearing of masks while participating in the celebration of a legal holiday. This provision applies mainly to the Mardi Gras carnival in Mobile.

Sheriff Holt McDowell of Jefferson County (Birmingham) said the law would be the "beginning of the end to mob violence in Jefferson County." 6-29-49

"The law itself will have some effect but its principal accomplishment will be in giving the law something to travel on," he added.

Dr. E. P. Pruitt, chairman of the Ku Klux Klan's board of governors, called the Mize Law "discriminatory and unconstitutional," but said hte Klan would observe it pending a court test. The Klan has denied participating in the Birmingham outbreaks.

6-29-49

Clark Praises Alabama on Law

WASHINGTON, June 28 (UP)—Attorney General Tom C. Clark praised Alabama's new anti-masking law today as an important step toward curbing hooded mobs and gangsterism.

He said it was "gratifying" that Alabama did not intend to let subversive groups "intimidate or terrorize people."

The Ku Klux Klan, which reportedly was involved in recent mob violence at Brookside, Ala., is on Mr. Clark's subversive list.

The Attorney General made no reference in his statement to his orders to the Federal Bureau of Investigation last week to make a complete investigation of the violence in Alabama. 6-29-49

Penalties Under:

Anti-Masking Measure

MONTGOMERY, Ala., June 18—Senate Bill 155, by Sen. Henry H. Mize, Tuscaloosa, outlawing use of the mask except in certain cases, provides as follows:

Sec. 1—No person over 16 years of age shall appear or enter upon a lane, walk, alley, street, road, public way, or highway of this state or upon the public property of the state or of any municipality or county in this state while wearing a mask or other device which conceals his identity; nor shall any person demand entrance or admission to, or enter upon the premises or into the enclosure or house of any other person while wearing a mask or device which conceals his identity; nor shall any such person, while wearing a mask or device which conceals his identity participate in any meeting or demonstration upon the private property of another unless he shall have first obtained the written permission of the owner and the occupant of such property.

Sec. 2—The provisions of this act shall not affect the right of any person to appear in public wearing a mask or costume which conceals the wearer's identity while participating in the celebration of a legal holiday.

News

Sec. 3—Any person who violates this act shall be guilty of misdemeanor and upon conviction shall be punished by a fine of not more than $500 or by imprisonment in the County Jail for a period not to exceed 12 months.

Sat. 6-18-49

Sec. 4—The provisions of this act are severable. If any part is declared unconstitutional or invalid, such declaration shall not affect the remainder.

Birmingham Ala

Sec. 5—All laws or parts of laws in conflict with this act are repealed.

Sec. 6—This act shall become effective immediately upon its passage and approval by the governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.

Penalties Under Anti-Mask Bill

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Sec. 2—The provisions of this act shall not affect the right of any person to appear in public wearing a mask or costume which conceals the wearer's identity while participating in the celebration of a legal holiday.

Sec. 3—Any person who violates this act shall be guilty of misdemeanor and upon conviction shall be punished by a fine of not more than $500 or by imprisonment in the County Jail for a period not to exceed 12 months.

Sec. 4—The provisions of this act are severable. If any part is declared unconstitutional or invalid, such declaration shall not affect the remainder.

Sec. 5—All laws or parts of laws in conflict with this act are repealed.

Sec. 6—This act shall become effective immediately upon its passage and approval by the governor, or upon its otherwise becoming a law.

Folsom Signs Bill After It Sails Through House; 'Rigid Enforcement' Is Order

BY HUGH SPARROW
News Staff Writer

MONTGOMERY, Ala., June 28—The mask was officially outlawed at high noon today as Gov. Folsom signed into law the Mize bill less than one hour after it was passed by the House by an 84 to 4 vote.

The bill passed the House at 11:15 a.m. It was signed by Lt. Gov. J. C. Inzer at 11:45 a.m. At 11:48 it was signed by Speaker Beck.

As he signed the bill, Folsom announced he was issuing an executive order calling the attention of all law enforcement officers to the new statute and ordering them to enforce it rigidly.

The News, Birmingham, Ala.

The governor signed the measure at the stroke of 12 noon. He used three pens.

After signing the bill he presented a pen each to Sen. Henry H. Mize, Tuscaloosa, the bill's sponsor, and to Reps. Earl McGowin and John M. Snodgrass.

McGOWIN AND SNODGRASS were instrumental in getting the measure passed in the House.

Only four dissenting votes were cast against the bill in the House. The negative votes were Reps. Pugh Haynes, Lowndes; George B. McDonald, Coosa; Neil Robinson, Lowndes, and John F. Gillis, Clark.

* * *

HERE IS HOW the House voted on the bill:

For—Speaker Beck, Adams of Dale, Adams of Jefferson, Barnett, Beatty, Benford, Black, Brannan, Broadwater, Brown, Buckner, Busby, Callahan, Cobb, Coburn, Cole, Cox, Cocker, Denton, Dobbs of Elmore, Dobbs of Fayette, Dougherty, Duffee, Dumas, Dyer, Evans, Faulk, Ganey, Garrett, George, Gibson, Givhan, Hawkins, Harris, Harrison, Haynes of Franklin, Head, Hornsby, Howell, Ingalls, Johnson, Knight, Larkins, Leonard, Lovelace, McClendon, McDonald, McGowin, Malone, Martin of Dallas, Martin of Green, Mason, Mathison, Meets, Merrill, Miller, Mitchell, Mollett, Norman, O'Neal, Pinkston, Pinson, Pruitt, Ramey, Richardson, Roberts, Rogers, Sellers, Shelton, Snodgrass, Stewart, Stone, Sullivan, Taylor of Autauga, Taylor of Hale, Thagard, Thompson of Crenshaw, Wallace, Weaver, Whitcomb, White of Covington, White of Perry, Wood of Bibb and Wood of Washington, 84.

AGAINST—Willis, Haynes of Lowndes, McDonald and Robinson.

* * *

REP. McDONALD commented as follows in his negative vote against the bill:

"My father was a Confederate soldier. He was a Ku Klux. He fought for the principal of the thing. I'm not a Ku Klux but I did this remembering him.

"I knew that they were going to pass the bill. I have no ax to grind."

REP. ROBINSON said:

"I think I was on the fence previous to the incident which occurred recently at Maxwell Field. Since then I decided to vote against it."

(The Maxwell Field incident referred to was the recent action of Negro soldiers there in attending a dance at the white officers' club and also using the main swimming pool at the field.)

Rep. Haynes said:

"I voted against it because I think we are going to need men who are real men before it is over with. I do not belong to the Klan but I think the Klan had nothing to do with those things going on in the Birmingham area.

"I think they were just a put up job."

* * *

SAID REP. GILLIS:

"In the first place, the state has no right to tell me what I can wear unless I am committing some illegal act thereby. They had no evidence with which to show the Klan had anything to do with those things going on in Birmingham.

"They were accused of it. They denied it. I am not a member of the Klan now but I was a member back in the 1920s."

* * *

WITH THE EXCEPTION of L. C. Albright, Birmingham attorney, none of the spokesmen in opposition to the bill who had appeared at committee hearings last week were present when the House considered the measure.

Mr. Albright sat at the desk of a representative in the rear of the House. During the brief minutes in which the bill was put up and passed, he chewed on a cigar.

In signing the bill into law less than an hour after it was passed by the House, a new record was set for legislation in Alabama. The bill had already been engrossed at the time the House passed it and there was very little delay after the vote was taken in obtaining the signatures of the lieutenant governor and the speaker.

* * *

EARLIER TODAY the House rules committee voted to make the bill a special order. It therefore came up for a final vote the earliest possible moment.

Shortly before the bill came up Mobile legislators threatened to offer an amendment to make sure the bill would not interfere with Mardi Gras celebrations. They were prevailed upon, however, not to offer the amendment for fear it might cause unexpected complications and invalidate the measure.

There was no discussion and no demonstration from the floor or the galleries when the speaker announced the vote.

Within a short while—as soon as the bill can be signed by the presiding officers of both houses and by the governor—the bill becomes the law of the state.

The four representatives voting against the bill were Haynes, Lowndes; McDonald, Coosa; Gillis, Clark; and Robinson, Lowndes.

Rep. Nelson, of Clay, who would have voted against the bill, was paired with Rep. Sadler, of Jefferson, who would have voted for the measure.

Unless the enrolled bill is held up because of the filibuster in the Senate, chances on the measure would be signed into law within two hours.

THE MEASURE had already been engrossed and therefore was ready for signatures the moment the House voted on it.

Shortly before Rep. Earl McGowin, Butler, called up the bill, a hurried conference was held during which Mobile representatives argued the bill might interfere with the observance of Mardi Gras.

However, representatives of Mobile County were finally persuaded not to insist on an amendment that would exclude the Mardi Gras observers from the bill.

Earlier today, the rules committee by unanimous vote made the bill a special order in the House.

Sen. Mize was on the House floor when the bill was called up. He also is expected to be present in the governor's office when the bill becomes law.

The Mize proposal passed the Senate with but three dissenting votes about 10 days ago.

* * *

REP. McGOWIN, in calling the bill up for a vote, stated briefly he did not intend to make a speech.

He said "I am sure that everybody in the House knows what this bill is about." He said it needed no oratory.

He then called for a vote. The lawmakers quietly pushed the buttons on their desks that flashed their votes on the automatic calculating board.

In a matter of seconds the votes were all in. A few seconds later the votes were fixed and recorded.

Business Women Add Weight To Mask Fight

Business and professional women of Birmingham are on record for an anti-masking bill and as urging law officials "to end this reign of lawlessness."

The League of Business and Professional Women has endorsed the resolution of the citizens' "Committee of 500" asking action against "mob violence."

Mrs. Anne M. Parker is president of the league.

Florence Post Backs Gorgas' Klan Stand

FLORENCE, Ala., June 28—Florence Post No. 11, American Legion, is on record today in favor of the strong anti-Klan stand of Gen. Gorgas Post No. 1 of the Legion in Birmingham.

In a resolution, the Florence Post commended the Birmingham Legion Post "for its efforts to carry out the purposes of the American Legion."

Florence Leegionhaires said they were in "full accord" with action of the Gorgas Post in calling for an anti-masking bill and urging law officials to bring masked and robed violators to justice.

The Florence resolution read: "Be it further resolved that this body do all in its power to bring about sufficient laws the enforcement of which will be adequate to cope with a similar situation should it arise again."

Copies of the resolution were sent to Sen. David U. Patton and to Reps. Mims Rogers and W. A. Barnett.

The Grunt Clan, Too?

The outlawing of the mask in Alabama today had one Birmingham man puzzled.

Joe Gunther, local wrestling promoter, wondered how it will affect his business.

Masked wrestlers have been popular with the fans in the past. Gunther wonders if the law applies to wrestlers.

"We'll have to wait and see," Gunther said when informed of the anti-masking bill.

Masks Are Ordered From Face Of Klan By Henry Mize Law

Governor Issues Directive For Immediate Enforcement Of Unmasking Legislation

The masks were stripped from the face of Alabama Klansmen this week when the Alabama House of Representatives passed the Mize Unmasking Bill by a vote of 84-4 with the two rep-

resentatives from Lowndes County and a representative of Clarke and Coosa voting against the measure.

The bill, sponsored by Henry Mize of Tuscaloosa, is designed to make it unlawful for an adult to appear masked in public. It is directed at the raids of masked bands who have attacked Alabama residents.

Second Blow

As a double barreled blow at the Klan, Attorney General Albert A. Carmichael called on the legislature to revoke the Klan charter. Carmichael asserted that the organization is harmful to Alabama.

The stand of the Lowndes County representatives points up a report that some members of the Klan in Montgomery are gathering in that County for their meetings. Little Klan activity has been noted in the Capital City.

Only County

Lowndes is the only county in the state in which both representatives voted against unmasking the Kluxers.

The Lowndes representatives are Pugh Haynes and Neil Robinson. Thu. 6-30-49

Immediately after signing the bill Governor James E. Folsom issued an executive order calling on all law enforcement officers to enforce the unmasking law rigidly.

Anti-Mask Ruling Asked Of Every Jefferson Town

Birmingham, Ala. Fri. 7-1-49

Committee Of 15 Also Names Two To Seek More Law Officers

The Committee of 15 flatly recommended today that every municipality in Jefferson County pass an anti-masking ordinance.

This is the working arm of the citizens' Committee of 500, organized to combat hooded gangs in Jefferson County.

* * *

DONALD COMER, chairman of the 15-man group, announced today that his committee also took these steps:

Named Gen. John D. Higgins, Joe H. Brady and Lawson Gambill as a subcommittee to confer with Sheriff Holt McDowell about an enlarged sheriff's force.

The committee approved of the larger force "with the understanding that they be men of outstanding ability and qualifications, equipped with uniforms and two-way radio patrol cars."

Another three-man subcommittee was named to confer with county legislators and request them to take steps to revoke the charter of the Ku Klux Klan.

Members of this group are Gen. Higgins, Thomas N. Crawford and J. C. Orr. Fri. 7-1-49

* * *

CHAIRMAN COMER said his group also will mail copies of its resolutions and statement of purpose to every organization in Jef-
they be adopted.

He asked that all organizations appoint one of their members to the Committee of 500 and notify that group and the press of their action.

"I had just got off the 11 o'clock night shift," he said. P. 12

Gill has worked in the red ore mines of the Woodward firm for the past 27 years.

The News *

I STOPPED MY CAR at the house. They blocked off the road. There were four cars of them.

"They all had on hoods and robes.

"One of them dragged me out of my car, and asked me if I had been to Tuscaloosa the day before.

"I told him 'yes, I had.'

Birmingham, Ala.

"He told me, 'we'll learn you to meddle in ——'s business.'

"They got in my car and drove out through Parkwood to a spot on Shades Mountain, in the woods, about three miles from my home. I could go there in a minute.

"They dragged my trousers down to my feet so I was naked and laid me face down on the ground.

"One of them sat on my head and another on my feet. They laid me across a small log. I was naked.

"A big fellow who looked like he weighed at least 200 pounds pulled a big leather strap out and uncoiled it."

Gill said it had a sort of handle on one end and obviously was a specially-made lash.

"The short man whose glasses glinted beneath his hood did all the talking. Fri. 7-1-49

'He told me again they were going to 'learn me to meddle in ——'s business," Gill said. Gill said he had reported the flogging to Sheriff Holt McDowell in person on Monday of this week and had given the sheriff the man's name.

* * *

HE SAID HE HAD BEEN to Tuscaloosa on March 19 to see a relative.

Then he resumed his story of the whipping.

"The big man hit me across the back and lower party of my body at least 25 times.

"I think I fanted after about 25 licks.

An Anti-Mask Law

Bham. News

To the Editor:

I have read your write-up of the latest "hooded invasion" of an individual's home. To me, this cowardly masquerade of night riders constitutes an outrage in the eyes of any law-abiding citizen, and is a deliberate insult to the law enforcement agencies of Alabama.

It is unbelievable that such lawless and idiotic methods of intimidation are allowed to exist in this state. Why have policemen, courts, and laws if misguided and irresponsible men are permitted to assume the authority to dictate the mode and manner of living to their fellowmen? Did these "unholy characters" receive divine guidance to go out and preach their doctrine of life through force and terrorism? If not, then why tolerate them?

Some of the law enforcement officers are equally at fault when they ignore a citizen's call for help, or when they stand idly by and allow hooded men to insult, abuse, and kill fellow humans, and destroy private property. These officers should be forced to resign for their cowardice in face of odds. They have been appointed to uphold the law and protect the individual. If they violate their oath of office, then root them out of office and put in some one who does believe in fulfilling his responsibilities to the citizens of his community. Sun. 6-19-49

The State Legislature should be urged by the people of Alabama to pass a law prohibiting the wearing of hoods and masks, and to provide a stiff prison sentence for those found guilty of violating this law. A law with teeth and law enforcement officers with "guts" will discourage these midnight skulkers from continuing their "inspired duty."

University, Ala. J. B. TREACY.

Alabama Bans The Hood!

In a very refreshing and inspiriting demonstration of sentiment in this state, the Alabama Legislature has overwhelmingly outlawed use of the mask or hood except for obviously innocent purposes. Any such concealment of identity, in sinister demonstrations or activities of any kind, is specifically banned.

Gov. Folsom signed the Mize bill in less than an hour after the House had approved the legislation by a very impressive and heartening vote of 84 to 4. The Senate had passed the measure by a vote of 23 to 3.

This is another in the series of heavy blows that have been swiftly dealt against hooded operations in this state. It is another powerful testimony to the aroused and resolute opposition of the people of Alabama to any such activities. Again hope is encouraged that we have come to the end of a period marked by a rapid sequence of incidents of such lawlessness.

Birmingham, Ala.

Enactment of this legislation gives voice to the will of the people in unmistakable and conclusive terms. That expression of public opinion in itself constitutes a very strong deterrent to any repetition of the kind of masked outrages which recently have occurred in this area. 6-29-49

But more than that, it arms law enforcement officers with specific authority to act against Klansmen or any others who use hoods to conceal their identities in public demonstrations or depredations of any sort.

The act provides that no person over 16 years of age shall appear on streets or highways or in public places "while wearing a mask or other device which conceals his identity; nor shall any person demand entrance or admission to, or enter upon the premises of or into the enclosure or house of any other person while wearing a mask or device which conceals his identity; nor shall any such person, while wearing a mask or device which conceals his identity, participate in any meeting or demonstration upon the private property of another unless he shall have first obtained the written permission of the owner and the occupant of such property." Wed. 6-29-49

* * *

That is a broad ban. It should go far toward hastening the disintegration that already seems to have set in within the Klan and toward putting an end to all vicious hooded activities.

If any additional legislation seems needed to complete the outlawing of sinister operations of that kind, it also should be enacted.

Atty. Gen. Carmichael has urged the Legislature itself to revoke the charter of the Klan, citing constitutional provisions which he says give it that authority. One section gives the Legislature power to dissolve any corporation whenever in its opinion its charter may be injurious to the citizens of the state.

Plainly there is no justification for a charter for any organization which engages in illegal hooded operations.

* * *

It is to be borne in mind, of course, that in their recent operations hooded gangs have done things that in themselves clearly and grossly violated the law. Such gangs might operate despite a law against the hood. It consequently remains urgently important that the utmost efforts continue to find and prosecute those guilty of past outrages. Otherwise the danger of new defiance of law will be heightened.

Fast House Okeh Seen For Anti-Masking Bill

The News, Birmingham, Ala

Mon. 6-27-49

Capital Hearing Set Wednesday, Says Rep. Byrne

BY JAMES FREE
News Washington Correspondent

WASHINGTON, June 27—Over the strong protests of Rep. Laurie Battle, the House judiciary committee plans to go ahead and investigate mob violence in Alabama.

Rep. Byrne, (D., N. Y.), chairman of a subcommittee to investigate masked hoodlums in Jefferson County, was unmoved by Battle's pleas to "leave Alabama alone."

"We are all set and we are going through with it," Byrne said today.

* * *

REP. BYRNE HAS the backing of Rep. Celler and some others of the judiciary committee. But Southerners have offered vigorous protests.

The Birmingham congressman said he would have no objections to a genuine investigation, planned with the purpose of getting information not available.

"But," he said, "the subcommittee is calling in newspaper men who presumably have already told of all they know in print."

The newspaper men are Clancy Lake, of The Birmingham News, Clarke Stallworth, of The Birmingham Post, and Paul Trawick, of The Union News at Jasper.

Battle said the local officials are capable of meeting mob violence actions in his county.

* * *

WHILE CONGRESS was getting ready to hear testimony in the Alabama incidents, FBI was conducting a full investigation in Jefferson County.

Atty. Gen. Tom Clark instructed the FBI to investigate the visits of hooded men to various Alabama citizens, some flogged, others threatened.

Clark particularly asked for a thorough study of "Klan visitations" to a 42-year-old Jefferson County grandmother and to a Brookside cafe man.

Clark said he understood the Ku Klux Klan was involved and that law enforcement officers failed to intervene in the Brookside case.

Several attorneys have been assigned by the Justice Department to help the congressional committee.

* * *

CELLER'S ORDERING the subcommittee to investigate Alabama mobs is certain to draw ire of some members of his 27-man committee.

It was expected the committee's right to go ahead with the hearing will be challenged when the committee met in executive session in the morning.

Opposing the investigation in addition to Rep. Battle, are Reps. Sam Hobbs, of Alabama; E. Gossett, Texas; J. R. Bryson, S. C., and James B. Frazier, Jr., Chattanooga, Tenn.

3 1949

KKK (Alabama) NEGRO

Negro Kluxers Sent To Jail

Advertiser

Ozark Pair Pleads Guilty To Violating Anti-Mask Law

OZARK, ALA., Aug. 5 —(AP)— The first sentences under Alabama's new anti-masking law were imposed today. Two Negro men were given jail terms after pleading guilty to a charge they donned white sheets to frighten two Negro girls.

8-6-49

The Negroes, Tommie Johnson, 19, and Robert E. Lee Miller, 21, testified they formed their own Ku Klux Klan with four others. They said they wanted to frighten the Negro girls, whom they accused of misconduct.

Mayor Douglas Brown sentenced Johnson to six months in jail, and Miller to 60 days.

The mayor's court is scheduled to try a third Negro, Raymond McClendon, 20, at 3 p.m. Saturday.

Montgomery

McClendon was arrested with the other two Tuesday and released under $300 bond yesterday. A Negro minor arrested with them was turned over to juvenile authorities.

Two others are being sought on similar charges.

The anti-masking law was enacted by the state legislature five weeks ago after an outbreak of flogging and other violence by hooded night riders. It provides for a fine of up to $500 or 12 months in jail.

3 Negroes Admit Forming Own KKK To Scare Girls

Ozark, Ala., Aug. 3 (AP).—Three Negroes accused of setting up their own Ku Klux Klan—complete with white sheets—today were charged with violating Alabama's new anti-masking law.

Post

State Investigator C. S. Prier said the trio admitted donning sheets to frighten two Negro girls they accused of misconduct.

The Negroes were booked as Tommie Johnson, Raymond McClendon and Robert Edward Lee Miller, all of Ozark.

Prier quoted Johnson as saying in a signed statement:

"We need some kind of organization to stop these girls. We ought to whip them."

Times 8-4-49

The investigator said the Negroes told him they decided to form their own Klan about July 1. They got sheets, hooked them over their heads and chased the two girls down an Ozark street the night of July 14.

Washington

Prier added the self-styled Negro Ku Kluxers then wrote themselves threatening notes to "get out of town."

CRIPPLED MINER FORCED TO WATCH PAL FLOGGED

Upper Coalburg Citizen Loads Gun, Says His Town Ready For Battle

Birmingham News
Birmingham, Ala.

Another sadistic act of terrorism in Jefferson County by hooded men was uncovered Saturday by The Birmingham News. Sun. 6-19-49

A miner with a broken back was snatched from his Coalburg home and forced to watch his nude friend flogged.

The crippled miner is William Henry Rochester, 42. The victim was his neighbor, Bill Hamilton, 39. Both have the address of Route 7, Box 358.

Rochester said he is "positive" the hooded men were Klansmen. He said the incident, previously unreported, happened three weeks ago. "I went in to Birmingham to see the sheriff right away," Rochester said. "He told me to keep it a secret—not to say a word about it to anyone, to let him handle it." 6-19-49

The miner said he has not seen or heard from anyone connected with the sheriff's office since his visit to the County Courthouse.

* * *

Still Investigating—McDowell

SHERIFF HOLT McDOWELL SAID the flogging of Hamilton was reported to him shortly after it had occurred by a union official. He said Rochester then came to see him and related the story of the flogging.

Deputies were immediately assigned to the case and are still conducting their invstigation, the sheriff said.

Sheriff McDowell said he also turned the case over to the state investigators sent here by Gov. James E. Folsom.

"We didn't say anything about the case at the time because we thought we could get more real investigating done if it were not known we were on the case," Sheriff McDowell said.

The sheriff said he told Rochester that if the hooded men came to his home again to "leave them lying there."

* * *

'We're Ready For Them'

ROCHESTER REVEALED THAT THE flogging was the climax of three "Ku Klux Klan events." He said the people of Upper Coalburg "are ready for open warfare. We've sent them word that we're ready for them to come back. We are armed and waiting. We know too that the Klansmen have been ganging up in Walker's Chapel and going out from there. We don't mind saying these things because—as I said—we're ready and waiting for them to come back." 6-19-49

He continued: "I, for one, will blow as many of them as I can into damn small bits."

Rochester said he was crippled in a mine accident last August. He said a rock fell on him, breaking one of his vertebrae. He was hospitalized for months, then had to wear a plaster cast over his body for three more months. He now wears a special brace over his entire back and abdomen. They say I may never be able to work again."

"Anyway," he said, they finally left after giving Hamilton a warning too." He declined to comment on the warning given his friend. Hamilton was not available for comment. 6-19-49

"They drove off and left us out there in the woods. We had to walk back all the way. Hamilton was barefooted," Rochester said.

* * *

Six Weeks Ago

ROCHESTER SAID the first Klan visit was made more than six weeks ago to the small town. His wife noted, "We were at Wednesday church service when a man came in and told the preacher he was going to have some guests. Then the hooded men came in."

The miner's young daughter interjected, "Yes, when I looked at them I saw rings with KKK on it."

Rochester picked up the conversation. "About six weeks ago they burned a cross in front of the church. The cross was set almost in front of Hamilton's house—which is next door to the church—but they said it was burned for all of the people. 6-19-49

"That was about three weeks before they got around to getting him and me."

He concluded: "I may be a cripple. My back hurts most of the time—but I'm damned if I'm afraid of anyone who has to go sneaking around in a bedsheet. I've told them that I'm ready. Let them come when they want to taste my supercharged ammunition."

He was kidnaped and threatened by the Klan the day after he first put on the brace, he told a News reporter. 6-19-49

Story Of Klansmen's Call

HERE'S THE ACCOUNT he and his wife pieced together of the Klansmen's call:

They were sitting in their partially unfinished modest home Wednesday night three weeks ago. It was about 8 p.m. and Mr. Rochester was listening to a ball game.

There was a knock at the door. Mrs. Rochester asked several times who it was. The callers refused to identify themselves. They said, "We want Bill."

He thought it was neighbors calling and asked them in. "The first thing I noticed, almost before the hoods and masks," he said, "was that one man was wearing a KKK on it."

He said all but two of the five or six callers had hoods and robes on. Those two, he explained, just had handkerchiefs over their faces.

"I knew who they were right away. But I told them to come on in. I wasn't afraid of them. I hadn't done anything wrong anyway. They came part way in. Then two of them jumped between me and my gun on the wall."

Rochester continued: "I said, 'Well, fellows, what are you all here for. What have I done?' They didn't answer. Two of them grabbed me by the arm. They didn't help me out of the house—they snatched me out. Despite my brace the dirty low-down rotten cowards yanked me outside, one of them on either side of me. 6-19-49

"They led me down the road to Bill Hamilton's place. They put me in an automobile outside his place. They already had him in another car."

* * *

'Aren't The Only Ones'

AT THAT POINT, Rochester said, one of the men wearing a handkerchief told him and Hamilton, "You aren't the only ones on our list."

"Then he named about three other neighbors of ours," the crippled man said. "Later he added two more names of persons who were supposed to get visits from the Klan.

"They took us out to Fieldstown. That's about two or three miles from my house. From there we went to Davis Bridge. They turned the cars up a side road into the woods. I guess we went a quarter of a mile into the woods.

"We were taken a bit away from the parked cars. They made me sit down a few feet from Billy. They shined lights on him, then threw him to the ground and stripped him."

Rochester said one of the hooded men kept his hand over Hamilton's mouth, and had an arm around his throat. 6-19-49

"That was to keep him from crying out," Rochester said. "They used a leather strap on him about five feet long and between three and four inches wide.

"They hit him about 20 times with it. The man using it started to do it some more, but one of the men with a handkerchief stopped him."

The miner continued: "He was told to get up and face me. Then they told me, 'You see that, don't you? That's just a sample—that's not just a little bit compared to what we'll do to you if you do just one thing.'"

* * *

'You'd Better Get A Job'

ROCHESTER SAID the Klansmen then accused him of failing to support his family, and told him, "You'd better get a job right away."

He and his wife brought out current grocery bills to show that they didn't owe anyone. "I'm receiving money from the union," he said. "I've been from one doctor to another getting my back in shape.

Justice Bureau Unit Asks FBI Study Of Lash

The News
Birmingham, Ala.

Makes Request For Birmingham Office

To Study Floggings

BY JAMES FREE
News Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON, June 23—The Federal Bureau of Investigation had an official request today to investigate Alabama floggings from the civil rights division of the U. S. Department of Justice.

The civil rights division asked the FBI to request its Birmingham of-

fice to proceed with a probe of mob violence in the Birmingham area.

A Justice Department spokesman said, however, that the request does not mean that the department has assumed it has jurisdiction yet in the cases.

Meantime on Capitol Hill, a proposed investigation by Congress was running into these difficulties:

1. Rep. Celler (D., N. Y.), who heads the House judiciary committee, said his aids haven't had much luck in finding people to testify to a special subcommittee. He asks newspapers to help furnish leads.

2. Rep. James B. Frazier, Chattanooga, only Southern Democrat on the subcommittee, said the six-man group hasn't voted to investigate incidents in Alabama but has only been requested by Chairman Celler to do so. Frazier said he doesn't think the subcommittee has authority to make a special investigation.

3. An Alabama congressman and a veterans' leader protested the inquiry.

BUT DESPITE THESE difficulties, backers of a strong civil rights bill evidently considered the Alabama floggings as a propaganda source for their cause.

Rep. Celler, author of a broad new civil rights bill, probably will have the congressional investigation under way in Washington by the end of next week.

Rep. Celler conferred with President Truman at the White House today and emerged to tell reporters that he has asked Birmingham Post Reporter Clark Stallworth to be the committee's first witness.

Celler, said he expects Stallworth's tale of being attacked while seeking evidence of floggings may spur action on civil rights bills.

The congressman predicted the House will pass a general civil rights and an anti-lynch bill at its present session.

* * *

REP. LAURIE BATTLE, Birmingham, plead with his colleagues to give Alabama "a little more time," saying its citizens are in a better position to obtain information than a congressional committee.

From Birmingham, Carl K. Wells, head of an organized Veterans' Committee Against Crime and Violence, sent telegrams to Celler and Rep. Hobbs (D., Ala.) saying the investigation would not serve any useful purpose now and would only agitate Alabama.

It was not clear at the capital today just who had demanded that Congress investigate Alabama floggings.

Rep. Byrne (D., N. Y., who will head the subcommittee, told this reporter with unusual frankness:

"There seems to have been a lot of demand for this investigation, but I really don't know where the demand came from."

REP. CELLER ALSO was unable to call to mind any specific organizations which had urged Congress to act. He said there were too many to name.

"The situation down there," Celler said, "seems to be getting out of hand. Our subcommittee is going to get all the evidence it can, with the view that they may be needed for more detailed federal civil rights legislation."

Celler said he would "try like hell" to learn the identity of the floggers while studying the psychological "climate" surrounding the beatings.

THE HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE will have help from an attorney of the Department of Justice's civil rights section in its search to determine what federal civil rights have been violated.

Celler's civil rights bill calls for:

1. A five-member federal civil rights commission.

2. A joint congressional committee on civil rights.

3. Reorganization and enlargement of the present civil rights functions of the Department of Justice and addition of new personnel in the FBI for civil rights investigators.

The bill would outlaw conspiracy to injure, oppress or intimidate any citizen, protect rights of political freedom and franchise and abolish Jim Crow segregation in interstate commerce.

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS who will investigate the Alabama terrorists are:

Reps. Byrne, Winfield Denton (D., Ind.); Thomas Lane (D., Mass.); Kenneth P. Keating (R., N. Y.); John Jennings (R., Tenn.) and James B. Frazier (D., Tenn.)

the calm she had displayed during most of her long espionage trial.

* * *

IN NEW YORK ONE of 11 Communists on trial for conspiracy testified he said in a radio address in 1947: "The only time Communists would advocate force and violence would be in case—heaven forbid—America became the victim of a Fascist dictator."

The Communist, Gilbert Green, also claimed he said in the same speech that he was authorized to offer $1,000 to any person or organization "that can prove we advocate force and violence to overthrow the government."

Civil Rights Unit Orders All-Out Inquiry On Mobs

Victims Of Hooded Beatings To Be Called To Capital Hearing

WASHINGTON, June 22—(AP)—Rep. Celler (D., N. Y.) today ordered a full-scale congressional inquiry into hooded flogging incidents in Alabama.

The investigation will be undertaken by a civil rights subcommittee of the House judiciary committee, which Celler heads. Rep. Byrne (D., N. Y.) will direct it.

Celler said the committee staff already is at work locating witnesses, who will be subpoenaed to appear here.

The recent beatings took place around Birmingham. Victims reported they were administered by white-sheeted men.

"THIS CERTAINLY highlights the necessity for legislation to protect the civil rights of citizens," Celler said in announcing the investigation.

Rep. Laurie Battle, of Birmingham, has asked J. Edgar Hoover for an FBI investigation of hoodlumism in Jefferson County and Shelby County.

Rep. William T. Byrne (D., N. Y.) today expressed concern over the mob developments in Alabama. He said he felt the House judiciary committee should get information about the Alabama happenings and decide whether the committee should go thoroughly into Jefferson County's law enforcement against mobs.

"I feel that the fact that not one single arrest has been made should be of concern to the Congress," he said.

REP. BATTLE SAID local civic groups and citizens' committees have taken up the fight to put down lawless actions.

There is a possibility that local authorities and victims of the night riders may be summoned for questioning by a House judiciary subcommittee. The subcommittee is considering legislation to punish conspirators in cases of mob violence.

Three key members of the full committee arranged a conference for this morning to discuss the Alabama disorders.

BYRNE, whose subcommittee is holding hearings on anti-lynch and other civil rights enforcement measures, told reporters his group is "ready to go."

"It's a matter of procedure now," Byrne said.

Celler put in that the hearings will be a "full fledged inquiry into lawlessness."

"We will try like hell to find out who is guilty of this thing, and also the climate around it which makes it possible," Celler said.

The hearings will start, he added, as soon as witnesses can be rounded up.

Some members of Congress have indicated the FBI already has stepped into the picture.

Justice Department officials say the incidents are being studied to determine whether any federal laws have been violated.

But Rep. Battle (D., Ala.) said local and state officials and civic organizations already are taking action. He said they "should and could find out the facts." Interference by any federal agency, he said, might 'confuse the whole issue."

BATTLE REPRESENTS the district where hooded mobs recently have flogged or beaten a number of people.

Some members of the judiciary committee said they, too, think the FBI may be probing activities of the Alabama mobs. For that reason, they said, they might hold off untitl they are sure they won't hinder FBI activity.

Hooded Gangs And Basic Causes

Reassuring steps now have been taken to end the wave of mob violence and hooded lawlessness in Alabama.

It may be hoped that the Ku Klux Klan again is on a sharp decline toward disintegration. The sinister mask has been outlawed.

Law enforcement officials have been strengthened and stimulated in their quest of the guilty in recent outrages.

Public opinion, in its widespread and emphatic condemnation of all such activities, is presenting what may be regarded as a highly effective deterrent. Citizens are in action in support of the law.

When the people are apathetic about hooded organizations and activities, the threat grows. But when it is plain, as it is now, that good citizens in overwhelming majority are aroused in opposition, then the danger declines.

It may be, then, that the menace of masked gang operations has been brought pretty well under control for the time being. At least that can be our hope.

* * *

But, of course, it would be a grievous and serious thing if our people or our officials were now to conclude that the situation is well in hand and we can all relax.

The hooded gangs defied and violated laws when they invaded homes and flogged and sought to intimidate men and women, even though the sinister mask had not been specifically outlawed. Unless it is demonstrated that such lawlessness can and will be punished, the danger of its repetition will persist.

Punishment by law remains an urgent need.

But even such effective operation of the law would not justify dismissal of the whole ugly business from the public mind and conscience. We need to get at basic causes. Control of symptoms is not enough.

* * *

What underlies revival of the Klan type of mentality and activity? Why are men disposed to join in gangs for operations behind hoods?

Many are the factors. They involve fundamental human weaknesses and shortcomings, which, in a degree, we always have with us.

But life is made tolerable by continuous efforts to reduce and abate such conditions and evils. At times the need for the intensification of such efforts is more urgent and obvious. This is one of those times.

Such old human enemies as destructive fear, bitter discontent, cruel prejudice, plain injustice, blinding ignorance, lack of opportunity and hope—and, so often, selfish exploitation—are at the bottom of such times of acute trouble.

Racial fears, tensions, conflicts, excesses—these are among the fundamental factors.

Unwise agitation and exploitation of such conditions incite dangerous passions and actions.

But still deeper, often, are conditions of injustice and denial which press for correction and make for agitation. And largely contributing to these conditions are educational and economic backwardness.

It is basic conditions of many kinds that must be improved if we are to achieve complete deliverance from the danger of such lawless activities as lately have so deeply disturbed us.

Dare we forget or ignore such realities, as we concern ourselves with immediate measures of control? If we do, deep social maladies with their threat of recurrent periods of acute symptoms and crises will persist.

Klan Loses Second Tilt In Alabama

MONTGOMERY, Ala.— (INS)— Ku Klux Klansmen came out from behind their hoods and masks in Montgomery Wednesday in a vain effort to halt the judiciary committee of the Alabama House of representatives from approving a measure banning the wearing of masks.

The committee rebuked the Klan by giving unanimous approval to the bill. The state's senate had all ready approved the proposal.

Passage of the measure by the Alabama lawmakers followed a recent reign of violence and terror by a group of hooded nightriders in the Birmingham, Alabama area.

At the same time, a house judiciary subcommittee in Washington voted to conduct a through investigation of the Birmingham floggings.

Re. Celler (D) N. Y., chairman of the judiciary committee, declared that the victims of the whippings as well as law enforcement officers would be called for questioning.

Birmingham authorities, however, began immediate steps of their own to crack down upon the mob action. Jefferson county sheriff Holt McDowell said he would present information on the hooded raids to the solicitor of the grand jury today.

At the public hearing in Montgomery, William Hugh Morris, director of the Alabama federation of the Ku Klux Klan, labeled the bill "discriminatory and unconstitutional."

KLAN FIGHT ORGANIZED

Morris and other klansmen said they would take their fight to the people with loud speakers and radio broadcasts to tell "the facts" about the recent floggings in the Birmingham section. He added that law enforcement officers in that area are being "crucified" by the press and public opinion.

He charged that the bill was "aimed at the good name of the klan." Morris continued:

"We feel we have the same right to wear special regalia as do the masons and other organizations.

Morris claimed that klansmen were not afraid to go without their hoods but that the practice is traditional.

The Alabama Klan leader said that he never wore a hood himself and refused to reveal the number of klansmen in the state. He explained:

"That's our greatest strength. You never know but what you may be talking to a klansman at any time."

Plea To Revoke Charter Made By Carmichael

House Passes Bill 84-4; KKK Plans Legal Test; Law 'Discriminatory'

Alabama ripped the mask off the Ku Klux Klan and kindred organizations yesterday in a bold move to halt a wave of hooded terrorism.

Legislation to prohibit the wearing of masks in public was signed into law by Gov. James E. Folsom within minutes after it passed the House of Representatives by an 84-4 vote.

The ink was hardly dry on the anti-masking act before the governor announced he will issue an executive order calling the new law to the attention of law enforcement officers throughout the state and ordering them to enforce it rigidly.

Second Blow

It was the second blow aimed at the KKK during the day. Attorney General Albert A. Carmichael a few hours earlier urged members of the legislature to pass a separate law to revoke the Klan charter.

Carmichael branded the hooded organization as "injurious" to the state and blamed its members for "floggings, terrorization and other lawless demonstrations contrary to all accepted concepts of decency and good order."

At Birmingham, Dr. E. P. Pruitt, chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federated Ku Klux Klan, said: "I am sure the law is unconstitutional. It's a discriminatory law. We'll obey it because we are law-abiding, but we'll make a legal test to determine its constitutionality."

Hands Off Asked

The House, for the second time within a week, unanimously passed a resolution calling on Congress to keep its hands off the state's campaign against hooded groups.

Rep. Eddie Miller of Etowah, one of the sponsors of the resolution, said its purpose was to re-emphasize "the strongest way we know how that Alabama is fully capable of taking care of its own dirty wash."

The measure pointed to the anti-mask law and said law enforcement facilities already set up would be enough to handle the situation.

House passage of the anti-masking bill took only four minutes and came without a word of argument. Even the four members who voted against it sat silent as Rep. Earl McGowin of Butler County told the House everyone knew what was in the measure and there was no need for prolonged discussion.

Unmask Santa?

The Oxford-educated McGowin dismissed as "far-fetched" question from one member who wanted to know if the measure would unmask Santa Claus. That was the only question asked.

As enacted into law wtihout even a comma changed since it was introduced in the Senate, the statute makes it a misdemeanor to wear a mask or similar disguise in public. Children under 16 years of age are exempt on Hallowe'en, however, the same as adults taking part in Mardi Gras and other festive occasions.

Violators can be fined $500 or sentenced to a year in jail.

The author of the anti-masking law, Young Senator Henry H. Mize of Tuscaloosa, stood alongside the governor as he put his signature on the bill. So did McGowin and Rep. John Snodgrass of Jackson county, administration floor leader in the House.

Sharp Rebuke

The overwhelming house vote came as a sharp rebuke to Klan spokesmen who argued vigorously against the bill during a public hearing before the house judiciary committee last Tuesday.

Three of the four who voted against the bill come from south Alabama counties where the population is predominantly Negro. They were Reps. Pugh Haynes and Neil Robinson of Lowndes county and John F. Gillis of Clarke. The fourth was Rep. George McDonald from Coosa county farther north.

A fifth member, Rep. E. E. Nelson of Clay, paired against the bill with Jefferson County's Rep. W. H. Sadler, who was for it but unable to be present.

A Baptist minister raised his voice against hooded gangs when the House convened yesterday morning. The Rev. Claude M. Hagood, giving the invocation, asked divine guidance for the legislators in upholding "law and order."

The Rev. Hagood is state Americanism chairman for the American Legion and preaches at several churches around Montgomery.

Doubt Expressed

Although the House voted unhestitatingly to unmask the Klan, there was considerable doubt on the outcome of the attorney general's recommendation that the KKK charter be dissolved by legislative act.

Members of the Jefferson county delegation and chairman of the House and Senate judiciary committees, to whom Carmichael's letter was addressed, said they have to study it some. Jefferson legislators were included because the Federated Ku Klux Klan is incorporated in that county.

The attorney general had been asked by the governor to take legal steps to revoke the charter, but he said investigation showed legislation was the "most feasible" solution. He said the House and Senate have ample constitutional authority to outlaw the Klan on the grounds it is injurious to the state.

Klan leaders have denied any connection with recent terrorism in Alabama.

The four legislators voting against the anti-mask bill gave varying reasons for doing so.

Reasons Cited

Reps. Pugh Haynes of Lowndes and John F. Gillis said they did not feel blame for most of the recent floggings and cross burnings could be laid at the Klan's feet and for that reason didn't want to hurt that organization.

Lowndes Rep. Neil Robinson said he was on the fence until he read in the newspapers recently that Negro soldiers were permitted in a white enlisted men's club and swimming pool at nearby Maxwell Field.

The other house member voting against it, Rep. George B. McDonald of Coosa, said his voice was guided by his father, who was a confederate soldier and member of the Ku Klux Klan. He said he voted "No" out of respect to his father.

Legislature Today

No session scheduled.

Committee meetings scheduled:

House — Judiciary, Room 332, 9 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.; Constitution and Elections, Room 334, 2 p.m.; Business and Labor, Room 334, 10 a.m.; Health, House chamber, 2 p.m.; Ways and Means, Room 336, 9 a.m.; Local Government, Room 334, 9 a.m.; State Administration, Room 332, 2 p.m.

Senate — Commerce and Common Carriers, Senate chamber, 2 p.m.; Finance and Taxation, Room 335, 9:30 a.m.; Immigration, Industrial Resources and Labor, Senate Chamber, 4 p.m.; Constitution and Constitutional Revision and Amendments, Senate chamber, 9:30 a.m.; Education, Room 336, 9 a.m.; Judiciary, Senate chamber, 9:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.

On The Better Side

ALABAMA'S action in unmasking the Klan has given this state some publicity of the kind that helps. News of it made Pg. 1 of newspapers as far removed as The Hartford Courant and The Arkansas Gazette. Editorial commendation has been widespread.

It was not inspired by any desire to play to the gallery. Part of the merit of any worthy step is forfeited if it is taken under pressure or merely to win applause. Neither of these factors figured.

It was because the people of this state had enough, and their representatives grasped the fact. Of course, the fact that we acted on our own does not make us less appreciative of words of approval and good will.

★

THE most welcome editorial comment we have seen so far comes from a Yankee newspaper, The Cleveland Plain Dealer. With none of the patronizing air that is like a red rag in the face of rebel descendants, the Cleveland paper showed a reassuring grasp of the realities. This attitude is increasingly evident up North as they become better informed.

Said The Plain Dealer:

> Alabama demonstrates that the South can correct its own injustices without interference by the rest of the nation through the powers of the federal government. The legislature has passed and the governor has signed the law, making it a crime to wear masks or hoods on the street.
>
> The law strikes a deadly blow at the infamous Ku Klux Klan and lynching mobs.
>
> Although similar bills failed in Florida and Georgia this year, it is inevitable that the example set by Alabama will strengthen their support in the future. And this is not the only step forward taken in Southern states in recent times. Many advances in racial and social matters have been attained in various Southern states.
>
> The attempt by the North, through federal legislation, to alter the attitudes and habits of the South is bound to retard progress. It is human nature for people to resist outside pressure.

Out in Texas, The Dallas Morning News, taking note of Alabama's action, pointed out that since 1925 Texas has banned the mask in public. According to a letter from a Louisianian, that state took similar action in 1924. But in several other Southern states attempts to rip the mask away have failed.

The Dallas paper hailed Alabama's action as "an effective stand for States Rights as well as for individual freedom

from molestation by those who would regulate the morals of their neighbors." And, it added, "similar action by the legislatures of other states that have had nocturnal floggings could soon break the backbone of the disgraceful hoodlumism."

★

OVER in Georgia, The Atlanta Journal, admittedly envious, compared Alabama's action with Georgia's inaction. In an editorial captioned "Georgia Looks On As Alabama Unmasks Klan," The Journal said:

The banning of masks is a death blow to the Ku Klux Klan in any area where the law is enforced. It is a death blow because the bums, the riffraff and the ignorant, misled bumpkins who perpetrate Klan crimes are for the most part cowards of the basest breed. If they were not ashamed of their actions or afraid to take the consequences, why should they seek to conceal their identity? Rip away the hood, and you destroy the anonymity. Destroy that, and you destroy the Klan.

Alabama's new law is the consequence of high indignation among decent people of the state who want law and order. Its effectiveness will depend upon the law enforcement officers at the local level, both in the towns and in the country. The fact is, of course, that the Kluxers and masked mobsters of whatever stripe are not, and never have been, a serious threat except where they have strong political friends in government. They have done their worst damage when, as has been too often the case, they operate with the connivance of the police.

7-3-49

It is a sad commentary for Georgia that we should be in the position of standing by, enviously applauding, while a sister state passes a law curbing masked goons. And while we are about it we might as well applaud Alabama for two other blessings. One is that the Ku Klux Klan is dead as a political force in that state, a fact underlined by the legislature's almost unanimous action. The other is that Governor James Folsom, for all his faults, is not a Klan-minded racial demagogue.

7-3-49

The action drew widespread approval from Alabama newspapers. Many of them, large and small, had already spoken their minds in no uncertain terms. In so doing they reflected public sentiment. That sentiment was aroused over the acts of mobsters who flaunt basic decencies and play into the hands of enemies of the South by passing them the ammunition to fire back at us. This enlightened public opinion counts for even more than the legislative action which reflected it.

U. S. Joins Alabama In War On Hooded Night Floggers; Anti-Masking Bill Approved

The Advertiser, Montgomery Ala.
Thu. 6-23-49

KKK Protests Innocence In Vain

Thu. 6-23-49
The Advertiser

Alabama and the federal government moved swiftly yesterday to unmask and punish hooded hoodlums. Montgomery Ala.

The Ku Klux Klan protested.

Congress ordered an inquiry into recent floggings in the Birmingham district by white-sheeted mobs. Thu. 6-23-49

The judiciary committee of the Alabama House gave unanimous approval to a Senate-passed bill to prohibit mask-wearing—placing it in position for final enactment Tuesday.

At Birmingham a "Committee of 500" was being formed by civic leaders to track down night riders, and County Prosecutor Emmett Perry said he was ready to call a special session of the grand jury to consider evidence against robed and hooded mobs.

All the action was prompted by a wave of floggings, cross burnings and threats in recent weeks. All involved white persons. No arrests have been made.

At Washington, a civil rights subcommittee headed by Rep. Celler (D), New York, will investigate acts of hoodlumism in Alabama. Celler said the committee staff already is at work locating witnesses to call to Washington.

"Not Us," Says Klan

The Ku Klux Klan flatly denies it or its members have engaged in lawless night riding activities.

The victims of hooded mobs disagree. In almost every instance, they describe official Klan regalia in telling how their assailants were dressed.

The House judiciary committee's unanimous approval of the anti-masking bill came after an hour-long hearing at which officials of the Klan urged defeat of the bill.

Committee members did not debate the bill but moved it be given a favorable report immediately after the hearing ended.

Among the klansmen testifying against the bill was a Baptist minister, the Rev. Alvin Horn of Talladega. He told the committee the chief purpose of the Klan is to preserve "white supremacy," which he said "our enemies are trying to destroy." Thu. 6-23-49

"I'd rather be hung from the balcony over the steps where Jeff Davis took his oath, than to have the mask taken from the Klan at this crucial hour," he said.

(Jefferson Davis was inaugurated president of the Confederacy at the Alabama capitol.)

"Smear Sheet Bill"

L. C. Albright, a Birmingham attorney who said he was a former klansman, told the committee:

"This bill is nothing more than a smear sheet newspaper bill. The name of the Klan has been blasted by the newspapers just like it was back in the 1920's."

He called the anti-masking bill "a newspaper publicity stunt" for the "politicians to bid for the Negro vote."

Albright said the measure might prevent Catholic sisters from appearing on the streets in the white cap of their church since it hides their ears "and if that doesn't conceal their identity, I don't know what would."

The Klan's state director, William Hugh Morris, said members have to take an oath to uphold our form of government. He added that it is stronger than the one taken by the President of the United States.

"We do not wear the mask as a disguise," Morris said, "but as a part of the traditional uniform of the Klan. We wear the robe as a memorial to our grandfathers. As their blood descendants, we have taken the same name and robe for the same purpose, not to violate the law but to uphold the principles of pure Americanism."

The klansmen added that they thought the bill would be declared unconstitutional if it passed.

Veterans Fight Mobs

Representatives from veterans organizations and organized labor appeared urging approval of the anti-masking measure.

T. H. Walker of Montgomery, state adjutant of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, presented a resolution adopted at the State VFW convention here last week in favor of the anti-masking bill.

John F. Foster of Birmingham, a representative from the American Legion, said there "is absolutely no need for hooded organizations."

"We need no Gestapo to take the law into their own hands," Foster added.

Gene Wells of the state CIO, testified that his organization and labor in general are against any form of mob violence, and asked the committee to approve the bill.

A $40,000,000 road bond issue was given a favorable report by the House Transportation committee.

The measure is a substitute for a similar bill which was introduced recently by Reps. J. J. Benford of Marshall County and W. L. "Doc" Martin of Greene.

Former Highway Director Ed Rogers, who is now the executive secretary of the Alabama Road Builders Association, urged the committee to approve the issue while several automobile dealer groups and motorists opposed it.

The judiciary committee of the House and Senate held a joint hearing on a bill to extend workmen's compensation benefits to victims of silicosis and other diseases of the lungs caused by dust.

The hearing attracted one of the nation's leading authorities on silicosis, Dr. A. J. Lanza, of New York, professor of industrial medicine at the Bellevue Medical Center at New York University and formerly chief surgeon for the U. S. Bureau of Mines. The Advertiser

Neither committee took action on the bill and both will resume the hearing today.

Members of the House Health committee indefinitely postponed a bill to set up a barber commission to regulate barber shops and require them to meet certain sanitary conditions. If passed, it would have been on a county option basis.

Health Wants $1,843,300

Hearings on budget requests for state agencies were continued by the House Ways and Means committee.

The State Health Department requested a $476,800 annual increase for the next two fiscal years, bringing the total appropriation to $1,843,300 for each year.

Dr. J. S. Tarwater, superintendent of Alabama state hospitals, suggested that the legislature continue its $10 per patient per week payments.

Based on an estimated 6,270 patients next year the appropriation would come to $3,299,600 for that period. Tarwater estimated the hospital population would increase 200 in 1951 to hike the figure to $3,647,000.

Dr. Tarwater proposed capital improvements of $1,425,000 at Bryce Hospital, $703,500 for Searcy Hospital at Mount Vernon and $520,000 for Partlow State School for mental deficients.

State Welfare Commissioner Loula Dunn submitted a budget calling for a $31,000,000 increase, $15,000,000 in state and local funds. Montgomery Ala.

She pointed to the growing number of people over 65 years old. Most of the increase, she said, would go to take care of needy old people.

Miss Dunn expressed optimism that Congress will further liberalize the Federal welfare program to include payments perhaps for handicapped persons not eligible for help now.

The welfare director said she wanted the records to show that she favors a broad insurance program, supported on a pay-as-you-go basis by working men and women during their productive years, to underwrite public welfare.

"I'm no more in sympathy with the present system of government subsidy than the next person," she said, "but it's the only answer right now."

Teachers Ask More

A delegation of the Birmingham Federation of Teachers, Local 563 (AFL), came before the committee during the morning to plug for increases in teacher salaries and better working conditions.

One member, Florence Kennedy, of Birmingham, chairman of the group's legislative committee, said the union represents about 600 teachers, a third of them in Jefferson County.

The federation proposed a $2,500-$3,700 per year salary range for teachers with A.B. degrees for a term of 180 school days a year; $2,800 to $4,200 for those with M.A. degrees.

Legislature Today

No session scheduled.

Committee meetings scheduled:

House—Judiciary, Room 332, 9 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.; ways and means, Room 336, 9 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Senate — Local legislation, Room 335, 2 p.m.; municipalities and municipal organizations, Senate chamber, 10 a.m.; forestry and conservation, Senate chamber, 11 a.m.; finance and taxation, 9:30 a.m.

Cross Is Burned In Pike County

TROY, ALA., June 22—A cross was burned in front of the home of Tyre Flowers, 50-year-old farmer, in the Goshen community near here last night.

Flowers said he did not know about the incident until he was informed of it this morning by a neighbor, Levi Rogers.

The flaming cross is a traditional symbol of the Ku Klux Klan.

Rogers said he saw the cross ablaze and unsuccessfully tried to get the license number of the lone car parked near the area. The car drove away.

"It ain't worrying me none," Flowers said today.

When asked if he could think of any reason why the klan or anyone else would burn a cross in front of his home, Flowers replied curtly, "hell no."

Mobs Swing Red Lash Over Clay

The News, Birmingham, Ala. Thu. 6-30-49

Terrorism Bared By Ministers; Vet Flogged; 3 Acts Revealed

ASHLAND, Ala., June 30—Mob terror has come to Clay County. Three acts of violence by masked and unmasked men in the past 30 days have been uncovered by two Methodist ministers at Ashland and nearby Millerville.

The two pastors also are investigating reports of other floggings at various points in Clay County.

* * *

VICTIMS OF the Clay County outrages have left "for parts unknown." They feared for their lives.

They are:

1. J. J. Gavens, 60-year-old herb doctor, of Millerville community. He was lured from his home, dragged into a car, severely beaten over the head with a blackjack.

He, his wife and small child have sold their home and left the community.

2. A Negro infantry veteran of World War II, Willie Horton, 33, Ashland cafe operator, and his brother, Herschel.

They were beaten with sticks, blackjacks, lashes and a pistol barrel, kicked in the side and on the face. *Thu. 6-30-49*

Willie won five battle stars, a presidential citation, Purple Heart and good conduct medal. He served 41 months in the infantry, 24 months in combat in North Africa and Italy. He suffered a shrapnel wound in his side while serving in Italy.

3. Another Ashland Negro cafe operator, Allen Heard, 32.

Three masked men came to Heard's cafe three weeks ago demanding information about another Negro. Heard said, "I don't know sir."

One of the intruders pulled a revolver, fired twice into the cafe ceiling.

They then left without harming Heard.

Unmasking Law Imminent

The Advertiser, Montgomery, Ala. Mon. 6-27-49

What Klansmen Decide Makes No Difference, Say Legislators

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., June 26 —(AP)—Two legislators said today it makes no difference what Alabama Ku Klux Klansmen decide about removing their hoods—that the law will unmask them anyway.

One of the legislators commenting is Senator Henry H. Mize, author of an unmasking measure already passed by the Senate.

"The bill," said Mize, "is aimed at all organizations and people who use masks. Any action by the Klan doesn't alter the need for the law one iota."

House Speaker William Beck said the same thing. He predicted the House would complete enactment of the measure by Tuesday. *Mon. 6-27-49*

The proposed law provides a fine up to $1,000 and 12 months in jail for mask wearing. Children and celebrants at such festivals as Mardi Gras are exempt.

Morris said the law, if passed, will be obeyed by Klansmen, "unless it is declared unconstitutional."

Congress has recognized the situation and directed a Civil Rights subcommittee to start an investigation Wednesday.

State attorney general, acting on a suggestion of the governor, announced he will move soon to revoke the charter issued to the federated Klan in Birmingham in 1947. The outfit claims members in nearly Alabama county.

A 42-year-old woman was manhandled, a 31-year-old veteran flogged and a cafe operator threatened in incidents in Jefferson County (Birmingham). Other floggings have been reported in adjoining Walker County.

All Means Used To Halt Mobs

Folsom Broadcast Urges Anew Legislative Reapportionment

The News, Birmingham, Ala.

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., June 26 —(AP)—Gov. James E. Folsom said today in a statewide broadcast that he is using every means at the administration's disposal to stamp out mob violence.

He gave the assurance in one of his periodic "reports to the people."

Folsom urged Alabamians to contact their legislators and demand enactment of an administration reapportionment measure.

He has proposed that each of the state's 67 counties be represented by a senator. The Senate now has 35 members, with a number of counties sharing one senator. *Mon. 6-27-49*

The governor said the state constitution requires reapportionment based on population shifts. He described the situation as "the most unjust and disgraceful that exists. . . . It is based on selfishness and greed."

Other Measures Pending

Other measures to reapportion the House are pending in the legislature, but action so far has been blocked by representatives of the Black Belt. This area stands to lose representation in relation to other areas, particularly north Alabama.

Folsom reviewed recent activities of night riders in the past few weeks.

"These would-be Hitlers," he said, "have prowled the streets at night, burning their crosses and frightening innocent women and children, and beating up veterans and workers."

Masked organizations "won't be tolerated as long as I am governor," he added.

He said he has issued an executive order to state officers to assist local police in arresting offenders, so that Alabama can prove it is coping with the situation. *Mon. 6-27-49*

All Investigated

Every outbreak, he said, is being given intensive investigation. A number of state investigators have been sent to the Birmingham district to aid in such work.

Folsom continued:

"The sanctity of the home is sacred and dear and we intend to keep it that way. . . . No matter how mean a person may be, he still is entitled to a trial by jury and no mob of thugs is going to take it away from him."

He urged citizens to help police officers "remove this scourge from Alabama," and added:

"We must prove that Alabama is able to defend the fundamental rights of all citizens, regardless of race, color or creed."

Drive Klan Out, Speaker Urges State's Legion

The Advertiser, Montgomery, Ala. Mon. 7-4-49

Nephew Of Tom Heflin Opens '49 Convention With Plea For Action

MOBILE, ALA., July 3 —(AP)—Alabama Legionnaires were urged tonight by a Tuscumbia attorney to join in a move to "drive the Ku Klux Klan out of business."

Howell Thomas Heflin, a nephew of former U. S. Senator Tom Heflin of Alabama, made the appeal at memorial services, opening the 1949 state convention of the American Legion.

"We must proceed to get rid not merely of masks, but the spirit which hides behind the hood and the sheet, the spirit of lawlessness, malice and prejudice which finds satisfaction in leaving lash whelps across the backs of helpless people," he said.

"Decent Alabamians must applaud the action of the legislature and other efforts to drive the Ku Klux Klan out of business The Klan so often desecrates the symbol of Calvary with the fire of hate."

Heflin told high Legionnaires that if they lived up to the preamble of the Legion constitution "we must all rise up against the klan, as the General Gorgas Post has done in Jefferson (Birmingham) county."

The Birmingham Post, which has more than 2,000 members, recently went on record against activity of "hooded mobs," and urged other Legion posts to join in a move to combat these groups.

Other legion officials here said the matter of "hooded mobs" would come in for considerable discussion at business sessions opening tomorrow and continuing through Tuesday.

Heflin's speech struck the only serious note in the Legion's opening day activities.

The Forty & Eight, Legion funmaking organization, took over, and its approximately 500 members put on a hilarious downtown show.

2 Montgomerians Elected

They discharged fireworks, initated 24 new members and paraded about in their traditional locomotives. *Mon. 7-4-49*

Dave Unger, Mobile real estate operator, was elected Grande Chef de Guerre. Other new officers included: Grande Chef de Traine, northern area, Cliff Propst, Anniston; central area, E. H. Pearce, Birmingham, and southern area, David Sisson, Montgomery, M. L. Kirkpatrick, Montgomery, and Grande Garde de la Porte, Tommy Thompson, Huntsville.

Undaunted by a day-long rain, Legionnaires from over the state poured into the city for the three-day meeting. More than 2,000 are expected for the first business session tomorrow. A Fourth of July parade is on tap for tomorrow afternoon.

NEWSPAPER REPORTER SLUGGED IN ATTEMPT TO TRACE TERRORISTS

Appeal, Memphis, Tenn. Tue. 6-21-49

Birmingham Man Lured Into Back Of Store—Blow Of Wrench Dodged

INDIGNATION IS GROWING

Young Business Men's Club, Legion Demand Action From Sheriff — Meeting Planned For Tomorrow

By ROLAND DOPSON
United Press Staff Writer

BIRMINGHAM, June 20. — A newspaper reporter was beaten Monday when he tried to investigate new reports of violence committed by hooded terrorists posing crudely as protectors of the public morals.

Clarke Stallworth, 23-year-old reporter for the Birmingham Post, told law enforcement officials he was slugged in the back room of a country store he visited to check a tip about a renewed outbreak of violence. *Tue. 6-21-49*

Civic Movement Grows

While a "forces of decency" movement was springing to protest "failure or refusal" of police to arrest the mobsters, Stallworth said he set out on his own to investigate the bloody beating of a mother in nearby Walker County.

Stallworth said he went to a country store in Sumiton, Ala., 28 miles from here, to meet a certain man who was to give him information, and was lured into the back of the store and attacked by two men.

The reporter said the man who "invited" him to the rear started swinging at once and that a second man quickly rushed in brandishing a wrench. Stallworth said he dashed from a rear exit, the wrench arching through the air behind him.

Stallworth said he was hit twice in the jaw, but that he managed to evade the wrench as it was swung at him in several wide, murderous sweeps, and thrown at him when he dashed from the room.

Since his automobile was parked directly in front of the store, Stallworth said, he took a circuitous escape route on foot, and flagged an interurban bus which he rode until he sighted a State Highway Patrol car.

Patrol Gives Escort

Patrolmen declined to make any arrests, stating the case was out of their jurisdiction, but escorted Stallworth long enough for him to retrieve his car and go to nearby Jasper to swear out warrants.

Civic indignation was swelling into an uproar, with most of it buzzing around the head of Jefferson County Sheriff Holt McDowell. McDowell's office can't be held accountable for the Walker County outrages but his investigation of five mob raids in Jefferson has yet to produce an arrest.

The Birmingham Young Men's Business Club attacked McDowell and other enforcement agencies for their "miserable failure" in trying to curb the outbreaks.

The American Legion went even stronger, formally presenting McDowell with a resolution citing county officers with "failure or refusal" to make arrests. The Legion and other veterans groups will meet Tuesday night to make plans

for destroying the mobs themselves if the police aren't equal to the assignment.

Folsom Stirs Alabama To Move First

The Defender
Chicago, Ill.

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — The state of Alabama this week took the lead in the growing demand by Negroes and the better element among white people in the South for action to stem the reign of terror staged during the past month by the Ku Klux Klan.

Sparked by the insistent demands of Gov. James E. Folsom, the Alabama state senate last week passed by a vote of 23 to 3 a bill outlawing the wearing of masks and hoods in public places. The measure went to the house, where pressure from war veteran groups and church and civic organizations among the more liberal white people is expected to assure passage. The immediate signature of the governor is assured. *Jul. 6-25-49*

The governor also notified the state attorney general, A. A. Carmichael, to revoke the charters of all organizations whose rituals involve the wearing of masks or hoods in public, and ordered state police troopers to set up adequate road patrols to intercept lawless

vised to eat something at the ation while waiting.

"With the other passengers from e plane I trooped over to the nch counter on the white side d sat down. With a nervous hisper of 'This is him,' one of the aitresses came over and served e, eagerly accepting my tip when had finished.

"I returned to the white waitroom and stood in the doorly between the white and colored sections, continuing my chat

groups using automobiles without license plates.

The governor described the floggings, cross burnings, threats and intimidations by hooded goons which have broken out in recent weeks all over the state, as a disgrace to the state. He declared his determination to enforce the law to stop them.

The most recent event last week involved the flogging of a disabled white war veteran, Billy Stovall, who was dragged out of his home by a hooded mob, taken to a woods and beaten on the pretext that he had neglected to take care of his wife and two children.

The preceding week the klan had beaten and slapped a white woman on charges that she sold liquor and conducted a disorderly house for inter-racial meetings, and had threatened to burn out a white cafe operator, because he fed both white and Negro customers though at different counters. *Jul. 6-25-49*

The attacks on white people by the terrorists have brought action from the state legislature, which refused to act while klan gangsters confined their violence to terrorizing Negro residents of Birmingham who had moved into a so-called "white district."

Three homes were burned, and other Negro residents were warned to move under penalty of being burned or bombed out. Local law enforcement officers, including the infamous police commissioner "Bull" Conners, have sided with the terrorists, and have warned two Negro ministers, one a war veteran, to move out of the district or face mob violence, as well as prosecution under the city residence segregation law.

* * *

Gov. Folsom Will Not Sign Racist Resolution

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — Gov. James E. Folsom refused to approve a resolution passed by the state legislature commending the Alabama congressional delegation for its stand against civil rights legislation.

The governor would not affix his signature to the racist resolution, but it went into effect without his acting on it.

* * *

Klan Member Cops In On Ala. Klan Probe

BIRMINGHAM — Most of the special police force which was investigating the current Ku Klux Klan out-break around here are either Klansmen or KKK sympathizers, the New York Post Home News reported, June 18.

Of fifty deputies on this sheriff's staff, at least thirty, according to the newspaper, admitted they sympathized with the Klan. Many of those even admit membership.

* * *

Unmasked Klansmen Face 2nd Charge

SOPERTON, Ga. — The three Klansmen who were unmasked in public by Mayor Jim Petersen here three weeks ago, came to trial on a charge of disorderly conduct before Mayor Pro-Tem James Waller Friday and were dismissed on this first count. However, they still face trial on the minor charge of loitering.

* * *

Ala. Sheriff Says 'Shoot To Kill'

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Sheriff E. B. McDowell, faced with the protest of white American Legion groups for his failure to protect white victims from KKK violence and other hate-groups, admitted last week that his office could not guarantee protection as it was impossible to know where the terrorists would strike next. He advised all persons who are set upon by mobs to "shoot to kill."

The sheriff did not make clear whether he counselled the same action for Negro residents who are being threatened with burning or bombing if they do not move out of a so-called white district.

* * *

FBI Probes All Hooded Groups In Ala. Terror

BIRMINGHAM — Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, acting under the orders of the U.S. Attorney General, are reported to be investigating the organization and activities of a number of "white supremacists" groups believed responsible for the wave of lawlessness and violence which has swept the South since the war.

The outlawed Columbian group is reported to be one of the inciters to violence responsible for bombings and burnings and threats to Negro residents in this city. Another "knights of the bed-sheet" outfit reported on is the American Bilbo Clubs which is charged with being backed by "foreign and subversive interests." It is believed that the Department of Justice will act to expose and end these organizations as soon as complete reports by FBI agents are received and studied.

* * *

Sheriff's Deputy Is Sentry For His Klan

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.— State investigators, acting under direct orders of Governor Folsom, revealed last week that they had found a deputy sheriff serving as a sentry at a meeting held by the klan.

The meeting was being held in a vacant store, and cars with covered license plates, itself a violation of a state law, stood in a parking lot on the street in front of the meeting place. Deputy Sheriff C. A. Lolar, wearing his star and pistol, was on guard in front of the meeting place, and was taken in to custody by the state investigators. *Jul. 6-25-49*

Lolar denied that he was a klan member, and said he was frequently hired at $5 per night to serve as sentry and watchman for the klan meetings. Lolar was immediately dismissed by Sheriff McDowell.

House Group By-Passes Ban On Klan Permit

Advertiser
Montgomery, Ala.

Court Action Suggested; Senate Halves Road Sum Asked By Folsom

Montgomery, Ala.
Thur. 6-30-49

The House Constitutions and Elections committee yesterday took a hands off attitude on a suggestion that the Legislature revoke the Ku Klux Klan charter in Alabama. Instead, members recommended that the State Attorney General Albert A. Carmichael instigate court proceedings. Carmichael had asked the committee to begin legislative action. *6-30-49*

Rep. W. A. Barnett of Lauderdale county, committee chairman, brought to the committee's attention a letter from Carmichael asking the action but explained that he thought it was meant for Rep. E. L. Roberts of Etowah, chairman of the judiciary committee.

Barnett said he thought it was a matter for the courts to handle. And the committee members, notably Rep. Pelham Merrill of Cleburne, said they did not think the matter should be taken up now since no bill has been introduced and there is no assurance one would come to the Constitutions committee if introduced.

$40 Millions

Across the hall, the Senate Constitutions committee recommended a compromise $40,000,000 road bond issue, exactly half of that asked by Gov. James E. Folsom. *6-30-49*

The measure is a constitutional amendment sponsored by Senator T. F. Burnside of Cherokee. It will go on the Senate calendar Friday and is identical with one which has already received committee approval in the House.

Other committee action saw the Senate judiciary group approve a bill to let the husband as well as the wife dissent from a will. Under the present law, a wife can object if her husband cuts her off in his will but if the wife cuts off the husband he has no course of action.

Senator Paul Hooton of Randolph, sponsor of the bill, said it would just give husbands the same rights their wives have.

The Senate education committee postponed action and turned over to a subcommittee a bill to provide for the election of the State Board of Education by popular vote. Members are now appointed by the governor with confirmation by the Senate.

Revived—Killed

The House Constitutions and Elections committee also revived momentarily, a World War II Veterans bonus bill, and then killed it again.

The measure previously had been postponed until the 35th legislative day and would have had virtually no chance of passing with only one day remaining. At the request of the author, Rep. A. J. McDanal of Walker, members brought it up for discussion but dropped it back to the 35th day. *6-30-49*

They put out without recommendation, however, a bill by Rep. Emmett Wood of Washington to lower the voting age from 21 to 18.

Also postponed until the 35th legislative day were two administration measures. One would exempt women from poll taxes and the other would let the governor appoint members of the board of trustees at the University of Alabama. The board is now self-perpetuating with members filling any vacancy.

House Reapportionment

A bill to reapportion the House along population lines got a favorable report from the same committee. It is similar to one by Senator Albert Boutwell of Jefferson and would reallocate the present 106 members with some counties gaining and others losing.

The Senate judiciary committee agreed to rewrite a rural REA telephone bill to meet technical objections. The bill would enable REA cooperatives to go into the telephone business if Congress passes pending legislation to authorize REA loans for rural telephones.

A measure to hike the penalty on lottery racketeering was turned over to a subcommittee after members objected on grounds that it might hit veterans and charity organizations which occasionally raffle off automobiles and other prizes.

Senator Albert Boutwell of Jefferson said it is designed to crack down on policy operators. It would provide for fines of from $100 to $500 and jail sentences up to 12 months on the first offense. A fine of up to $1,000 and mandatory jail sentences would be required on subsequent violations.

Birmingham Police Commissioner Eugene Conner told the group, "what we need is a law that will let us put them in jail on the first offense." He said under the present lottery statute, violators can only be fined the first time.

The local legislation committee of the House announced a public hearing July 13 at 10 a.m. on a bill to allow annexation of outlying areas in Jefferson County by the City of Birmingham. The bill provides for a referendum to determine which incorporated towns want to come into the metropolitan area with unincorporated areas automatically being annexed.

Members of the Senate education committee approved a measure to make the age limit for children entering school six years on or before Oct. 1 and in midterm if the birthday is after Feb. 1. The bill would put the dates back where they were before the 1947 legislature changed them.

The House ways and means committee okehed construction of a $1,000,000 state office building to be paid for from rentals of federal agencies. It would create a public corporation to handle the financing and operation of the building.

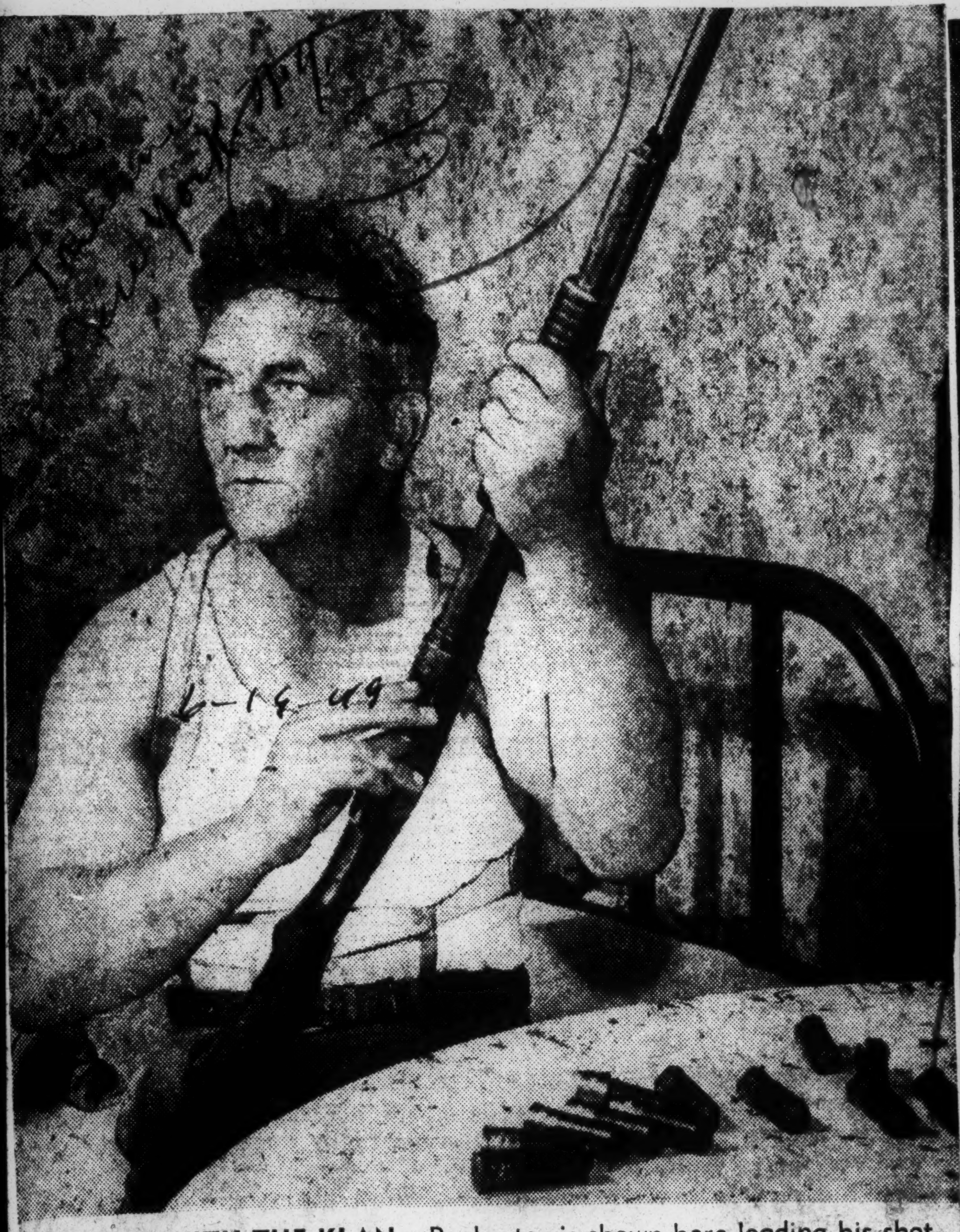
Legislature Today

No session scheduled.

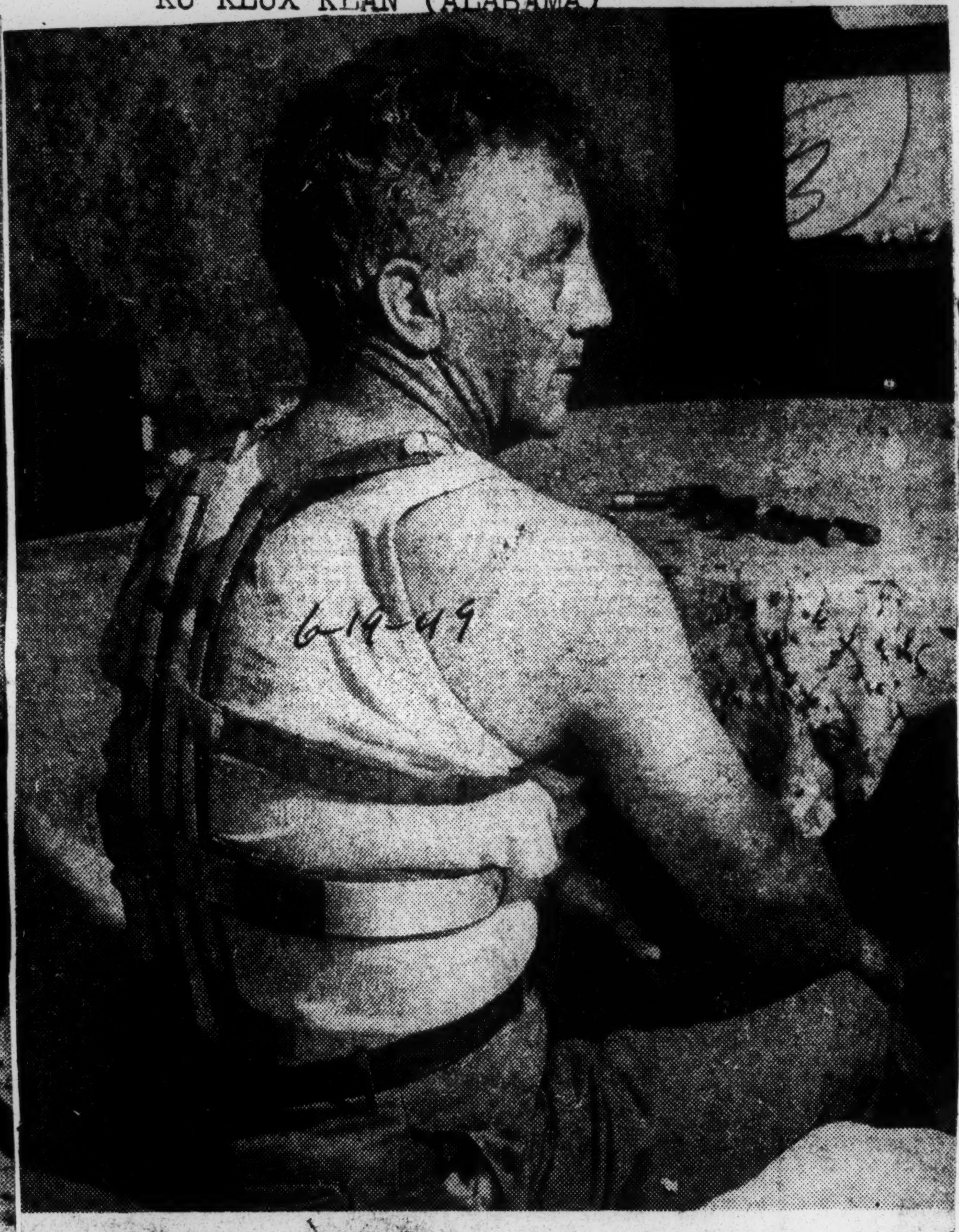
Committee meetings scheduled:

House—Judiciary, Room 332, 10 a.m.; Local Government, 9 a.m.; Conservation, Room 334, 10 a.m.

Senate — Local Legislation, Senate Chamber, 2 p.m.; Forestry and Conservation, Senate Chamber, 9:30 a.m.; Judiciary, Senate Chamber, 2 p.m.; Finance and Taxation, Room 335, 9:30 a.m.; Public Health, Senate Chamber, 2 p.m.



FOR WAR WITH THE KLAN—Rochester is shown here loading his shotgun with "supercharged" ammunition. He says he's even keeping "one in the barrel for them." The citizens of Upper Coalburg are ready to go to war with the members of the Klan, declares Rochester.



BILLY ROCHESTER IS READY—Crippled miner Billy Rochester, above, of Upper Coalburg, was forced to watch members of the Ku Klux Klan flog his friend. He's shown here wearing a back brace which he had to don after a mine accident.

6-19-49

House Committee To Hold Flog Hearings

Atlanta Daily World, Atlanta, Ga.

WASHINGTON, D. C. — (SNS) — The United States Department of Justice, through Atty. Gen. Tom Clark, has ordered a full field investigation of Ku Klux Klan terrorism in the Birmingham and Jefferson County area where violence has flared in recent weeks. A congressional committee at the same time ordered public hearings on Alabama floggings.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation will conduct the probe into the activities of hooded mobsters who have beaten an aged white woman, threatened a cafe operator, and beaten several persons during recent night rider violence in Alabama.

The move against the hooded Alabama terrorist came over the bitter protests of Rep. Battle, (D. Ala.) and Rep., Rankin, (D. Mississippi,) who urged Congress to "keep hands off" and drop its investigation of the incidents which are under the scrutiny of the FBI and a House subcommittee.

SEES DETERMENT

Rep. Battle in whose district the flogging by white-robed occurred, told the House that "any federal exploitation" would deter rather than expiedite justice," in contending that lawless elements thrive on outside interference.

Sat 6-25-49

The Ku Klux Klan is reported to have forced their way into the home of Mrs. Hugh McDaniel, a white woman, in her Brookside home. The mob left after hitting her on the head and warning against running a disorderly house. The woman denied the accusation. It is reported that a deputy sheriff was a member of the mob.

Several hours later a robed mob entered a cafe in Brookside, Ala., and warned the proprietor Steve Marshler of permitting whites and Negroes to mingle. The two races were separated by a partition inside the cafe.

Marshall and several Negro patrons were then forced outside the cafe to witness a cross burning.

UNDER RIGHTS STATUTES

Atty. General Tom Clark in ordering a full-fledged investigation of these incidents and other beatings said he was acting under federal civil rights statutes.

He promised a "complete investigation."

In Montgomery, Ala., the House of Representatives of the State Legislature was preparing to bring to a showdown vote a bill to ban mask wearing in the state. The Ku Klux Klan has bitterly opposed the move.

The House Judiciary Committee is headed by Rep. Celler, Dem, N. Y.

On With The Job!

The News

The list of victims of hooded lawlessness grows. Perhaps it will continue to grow as the mounting of incensed public opinion and the strong demand for vigilant law enforcement, provide greater reassurance and a prompting to revelation of incidents that had been, for one reason or another, kept quiet.

The full story of all the lawless outrages that have occurred in this community should now be told. Only in this way can the people obtain a comprehensive understanding of the task that confronts them. That task is the reassertion of the rule of decency and law, of order and tolerance, of security and good feeling.

Public opinion, that fundamental force in free government, must proclaim in emphatic, unmistakable terms that such things as have recently happened in this area simply must not happen—are indeed unthinkable. It is the dominance of such a sentiment that can provide a tremendous reinforcement of the barriers to masked and unmasked gang outrages.

Birmingham, Ala.

If there is any doubt that such a sentiment does prevail among the great majority of our people, the danger of new incidents will accordingly continue.

It was a widespread prevalence of indifference to the renewal of hooded activities, to the rise again of the Klan, that accounted in part for the gross violations of law and decency that have occurred in rapi

sequence.

Let there be no doubt from this moment on that the people of Alabama will not remain apathetic in the face of such barbaric and intolerable practices.

The challenge to all authorities charged with the enforcement of the law is clear and urgent. There have been encouraging signs of action to meet that challenge. But there must be definite demonstration that the law is able to put an end to activities of this kind. Guilty men must be found and punished.

* * *

If any doubt exists as to the specific illegality of mob intimidation and violence, of hooded activities against the peace and safety of any of our people, that doubt must be removed. Let the Legislature take whatever steps may be needed to give the full backing of the law to efforts to end such outrages forever.

These are things for which we can, indeed, have no tolerance. For if we do intolerance and hatred and violence will strike at the deepest foundations of our life. Sun. 6-21-49

Citizens have shown their determination to take active part in support of the law and of officials of the law. This great company should include all good citizens. And there should be no letting up in this resolute enterprise to eliminate these horrors from our life until it is unquestionably clear that the job has been entirely completed.

Voice Of The People

The News Birmingham Ala. (3) KKK

Some Questions

To the Editor:

I'm sure that the respectable citizens of Alabama appreciate your effort at revealing the vicious acts now being executed under cover by the lawless elements of Alabama and other parts of the South generally referred to as hooded hoodlum.

Is it imperative that we witness again the events of 1931 and 1932 when our government allowed gangster rule to become predominant throughout the land and the public to become the prey of vicious minded men who should have lived in the dark ages?

Is there no way for decent men to be awakened to the problem confronting respectable citizens of the South today? Or must we go back to the ethics practiced in the days of Moses which allowed an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth?

Are we going to allow conditions to revert to the day of the tainted page in our history when gangsters, hoodlums, bootleggers, gamblers and bribe-taking officers composed the society representing the gentlemen of the town? Mon. 6-27-49

And will the men under J. Edgar Hoover again be stripped of their authority to run down the gangsters, as in the days of the Hoover administration? We have a Democratic president now and also a Democratic Congress. And if the crime wave under hooded hoodlums of the South today does not comprise a national menace, if it is not a threat to federal as well as state government, if it is not an act of treason, then pray tell me on what grounds and under what evidence could one be convicted of treason in the United States? Have such acts ever been condoned by any government throughout history? And is the United States government going to set a precedent in that respect? If so, then what will the peoples of other countries think of our asking them to accept our form of government, if government it may be called? Mon. 6-27-49

What will the religious people of Europe think of such conditions here in this part of our country where we have so much religion and where preachers don the hoods and go out with the lawless gangs on their beast-like mark of terrorism, thuggery and savage acts? Would the religious people of Europe or any other class of them, including the Communist, wish to see such conditions in any part of their own country? And we ask them to accept our way of life. Is not the way of life here in the South a part of the way of American life?

W. P. HUDGINS.

P.O. Box 832, Huntsville, Ala.

* * *

Klan Rides Again

To the Editor:

The following quotations from the book, "The Big Bosses," by Van Devander, should give every citizen of Alabama food for thought at this time. I also recommend this book in its entirety as very enlightening to all political minded citizens:

"The story of present day politics in Alabama starts in 1925 when Sen. Underwood, unsuccessful in his ambition to run for the presidency but garlanded with the glories of 30 years of useful service in Congress, decided to retire to private life and write his memoirs.

"The Ku Klux Klan, resurrected by self-seeking racketeeers from its grave in the history of Reconstruction days, was riding high in the early 1920s. Its power in politics was felt not only in its birthplace and stronghold in the Deep South, but notably in such non-Southern states as Indiana, Maine and Oregon. Viciously lawless, anti-Catholic as well as anti-Negro, founded on ignorance and superstition, Klanism in America was a precursor and close relative of nazism in Germany. In 1924 the night-shirted Klan had been dragged onto the floor of the Democratic national convention in New York's Madison Square Garden, and Democrats from all over the country had argued passionately for two days over whether or not they could afford to 'name' the Klan in a platform declaration against bigotry and intolerance. That debate struck a heavy blow at the Klan, but the hooded organizaton lingered on as a potent political force for several years.

"In Alabama the Klan ruled the state. Many of the 'best people' were members. Politicians and storekeepers found it necessary to join in order to stay in business. The 'nice people' mildly deplored the terroristic beatings and other forms of hoodlumism indulged in by their hooded fellow-klansmen. But they supported the hoodlums and condoned their actions by continued membership in the secret order.

(2) Mon. 6-27-49

"Sen. Underwood was the South's most prominent political figure of his day, perhaps its leading statesman of the century. But he had opposed the Ku Klux Klan, and the Klan had marked him for defeat. The senator shrank from a campaign in which all of the Klan's venom would have been turned against him."

Wake up, members! You are being used. I'm sure you are told a different story and that you mean well because deep down inside we are all the same. You, too, are being deceived and are being hurt far more than those you seek to hurt. How is your conscience today? Robes cannot hide you from God. Have the courage to change your hood for a crown of thorns and your robe to purple instead of white.

Thou shalt not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the children of thy people, but thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself: I am Jehovah (the Lord) (Lev. 19:18).

Can't you say as Paul did: "And Paul, looking steadfast on the council, said, brethren, I have lived before God in all good conscience until this day (Acts 23:1). Herein do I also exercise myself to have a conscience void of offense toward God and men always (Acts 24:16).

I ask you citizens and I ask you, members of the Klan, what do you think?

KAY WESTERMANN.

By JAMES EDMUND BOYACK

(Special to The Pittsburgh Courier)

Pittsburgh Pa. (3) KKK

WASHINGTON — Attorney General Tom C. Clark last week declared war on hooded mob violence as he ordered a sweeping investigation of eleven whippings, beatings, and cross-burnings in Alabama, and sent to Congress "dynamite-loaded" opinions endorsing pending civil rights' legislation.

The Attorney General's statements were unprecedented in forthrightness, and punctuated by Supreme Court and other Federal Court decisions. It is believed here that his opinions on anti-lynch, and anti-poll tax legislation, as well as the proposed Civil Rights Act of 1949, will "turn the tide" in favor of these crucial measures.

While the Alabama cases involve whites only, Clark is believed to have "jumped" on these cases to arouse the white South to the danger of the Ku Klux Klan and other subversive terroristic groups, thus paving the way for immediate convictions and for Federal legislation which effectively will protect all citizens from lynch law.

Besides the above, the Attorney General set forth compulsory reasons for the necessity of creating:

1. **A five-member Commission on Civil Rights in the Executive branch of the Government.** Pittsburgh Pa.
2. **A Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice, calling for the appointment an additional Assistant Attorney General in charge.**
3. **Provisions for increasing to the extent necessary, the personnel of the Federal Bureau of Investigation to provide adequately for the investigation of civil rights' cases. Included would be special training of agents for the investigation of these cases.** Sat. 7-2-49
4. **A Joint Congressional Committee on Civil Rights composed of fourteen members, seven Senators to be appointed by the President of the Senate, and seven members of the House of Representatives to be appointed by the Speaker, with due regard for party representation.**

In the Alabama cases, Clark acted on the basis of a preliminary investigation, which indicated neglect by local police officers in enforcing constitutional civil rights, and as Southern Congressmen and the Alabama Legislature told both Congress and Clark "to keep hands off their affairs."

The Attorney General specifically endorsed HR 4683, HR 4682, introduced by Rep. Emmenual Celler (Dem., N. Y.), and HR 3199.

Concerning the first measure, Clark stated:

"The crime of lynching is a blot on our national life. The facts concerning it are on record before your Committee. It is condemned by right-thinking people in every section of the country.

"I urge that the Congress exercise its full powers to give a Governmental guarantee to the foremost freedom, the freedom to live."

Declaring that Celler's bill is constitutional, he declared:

"The exercise of power will be upheld by the judiciary."

Clark further declared:

"In my judgement, the Federal Government today has the obligation to protect its citizens from the forcible deprivation by mob action of the right of a fair trial. It has that obligation too, as to mob action directed against individuals by reason of their race, color, religion, or national origin. The Department of Justice long has endeavored to enforce these rights to the fullest extent possible under the provisions of the existing law. But serious limitations have been imposed. In my opinion, the time has come for strengthening the existing laws so as to deal adequately with the entire problem of lynching.

"It is essential that a lynching bill put the Government in a position to prosecute members of a lynch mob, particularly where there is no element of conspiracy with local officers. These comprise the bulk of the present-day cases where the threat of lynching exists.

"In addition, it is essential that the Government should not be limited to those cases where persons are not taken from law enforcement officers, with, or without the consent of such officers. There have been to many instances in the past of lynching or the threat of lynching in the case of persons neither charged or suspected of crime, but who, for economic or political reasons, have been subject to lawless mob action because of their race, color, religion, or national origin.

"Such a situation is intolerable in our society. The Government must be in a position to deal with all these situations."

"I should like to voice my support of HR 4683 as an anti-lynching measure which meets the needs of the law enforcement agencies," Clark declared.

Somebody Knows—

Reward For Information On Floggers Is $3,000

The News Birmingham, Ala.

Tue. Jue. 7-12-49

"The fight against masked mob violence has just begun," Carle Wells, chairman of the Veterans Committee against Crime and Violence, said today. Jue. 7-12-49

Wells pointed out while more than 14 persons have been indicted by the Grand Jury, "many more persons took part in floggings and other unlawful acts."

The $3,000 reward fund for the arrest and conviction of masked floggers, cross burners and robed men who intimidate others, still stands.

Investigators are still seeking the names of persons who took part in acts of violence in Jefferson County beginning with the raid on a Bessemer Girl Scout camp June a year ago.

* * *

PERSONS WITH INFORMATION about masked men can send their tips to Special Information, P. O. Box 2553, Birmingham.

The information can be sent in secret.

If you know something—a name, a meeting place, an automobile tag number—anything that can throw light on actions by masked men or organizations seeking to take the law into their hands, you can tell it in secret.

Just write the information on a sheet of paper.

Write down some numbers and letters of the alphabet. 7-12-49

Repeat the same numbers and letters on the corner of the paper, and tear off the corner. The torn piece of paper will be your proof in case you come in for a reward.

Mail your information about masked men to P. O. Box. 2553. Birmingham, Ala.

Worse Than The Klan

The News

To the Editor:

I have been reading The News with a great concern and I have noted your unusual interest in bringing to light the work of the hooded men. I decline to say "Klan" because I doubt if the Klan has done what it has been charged with doing. I note that you have given column after column and page after page—I presume for the purpose of creating a sentiment and arousing the people against the work of the hooded men and I am sure that to some extent you have been successful. I am sure that the Committee of 500 is composed of outstanding Alabamians and let us hope that in the sum total of all your efforts the ultimate end will be good for all the people of Alabama.

I believe, however, that there is a field in which you can work with your paper and the Committee of 500 that will actually do away with the need for any help to enforce the law. Since you have been so in earnest about the matter I am inclined to believe that you will accept some problems I have to present. Legal and illegal liquors are the cause of more deaths in one week, more wrecks, more broken bodies, more broken homes and more broken lives than the Klan has caused in the last half a century. Your paper of Tuesday, July 5, tells the story of a man being killed at Trussville, at a barbecue where "there had been considerable drinking." Then Wednesday's paper says "Second Victim Succumbs After Free For All at Barbecue." Every week right here in Birmingham and Jefferson County we find innocent people killed, or nearly so, from drunken drivers. Would you start a war on drinking liquor and killing at parties, halls and programs, and the sale and use of alcoholic beverages equal to the one you have on the Klan, the results aren't predictable. Birmingham, Ala

June 12, 1948, I wrote a letter to the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board at Montgomery pointing out that in one county in Alabama a liquor referendum had been called and the drys won by a clear majority of more than 3,000 and that the good citizens of that county were complaining that truck loads of legal liquor and beer were being delivered to certain clubs in that county at regular freight rates. I pointed out that although we didn't believe in legal liquor we had respected the law in wet counties and cooperated with the state because it was a law and that I believed it was the responsibility of the board to stop truck loads of liquor going from their stores to those clubs. I sent a copy of that letter to Gov. Folsom. We called a meeting of the judges, solicitors, mayors, sheriffs and police of that county and asked their cooperation. We had a reply from the ABC Board administrator with a notation that a carbon copy of his letter had been sent to the governor. As yet we can't tell that we have had any results in said county. (Somebody in that county said the Ku Klux were justified in their case.) Sat. 7-12-49

I called the secret service men and told them of a case where the sheriff in a dry county (dry 4 to 1 in the last liquor referendum) was in partnership with some local citizens handling bootleg liquor. I gave him the name and exact address of one of the most prominent citizens in that county to contact, which citizen knew of the partnership of the sheriff and other men. I assured him that said citizen would detail the information to him. That was last December, 1948. The good citizen of said county tells me that he has not heard from anyone yet and the connection is still going. Somebody in that county said Ku Klux were justified.

I am saying to you that maybe your paper can help us, help the law, and help the majority of the people if you will give us columns and pages, which is a public service, in combating such evils as the liquor traffic regardless of whom or where it affects.

JAMES SWEDENBURG, Baptist Minister.
1726 Comer Building, Birmingham, Ala.

A Blow for the South

The Constitution, Atlanta

A grand jury at Birmingham, Ala., has returned 45 indictments in connection with the recent outbreak of floggings and mask intimidation in that area.

The grand jury's action strikes a blow for the South. Ga. Mon. 7-11-49

It shows that a Southern State can, and will, act to put down mob violence. It is a timely reply to the South's critics who demand immediate and all-out Federal action. And the reply is lent greater force by the recent action of the Alabama Legislature in outlawing the wearing of masks.

It will be recalled that a congressional investigation of the Alabama floggings and mob threats was called off after only three witnesses were heard. This was due to the insistence of Southerners in Congress and of at least one of the three newspapermen witnesses who were heard that Alabama, and the South, could do the job of putting down violence on its own.

The Birmingham grand jury's indictments vindicate that argument.

As long as the South tolerates mob violence and the Klan it does not have an effective answer to those who cry for Federal interference. Mon. 7-11-49

All Southerners who value decency and the good name of their region will applaud the forthright and timely action at Birmingham.

We congratulate the grand jury and Alabama.

Folsom Sends Out Blast At Robed Gangs

The News

The Ku Klux Klan will be unmasked before sunset tomorrow.

Speaker Bill Beck says the Mize unmasking bill will be passed by the House in the first 15 minutes of tomorrow's legislative session.

Gov. Jim Folsom will sign the bill into law.

Meanwhile, a last-minute fight has developed among Klan leaders over whether the membership will "voluntarily" put aside their face-hiding visors.

Dr. E. P. Pruitt, chairman of the board, says the time has come for the Klan to unmask.

Birmingham, Ala.

WILLIAM HUGH MORRIS, a director, says Dr. Pruitt speaks only for himself—that hte Klan members will fight tomorrow in Montgomery to keep their masks.

Hard, legal body-crushing blows will be dealt the law of the hood and the lash this week.

Alabamians are using the courts, the legislative process and the weight of public opinion to end mob violence. Mon. 6-27-49

A two-front fight moved forward today to dissolve the Ku Klux Klan charter.

Rep. Lawrence Dumas and Sen. Albert Boutwell today were studying a simple resolution in the Legislature to revoke the Klan's charter.

Atty. Gen. Albert Carmichael is all set to file a suit in Circuit Court here to abolish the Klan's charter. The News

* * *

SOLICITOR EMMETT PERRY today gathered evidence to present to a special session of the Jefferson County Grand Jury.

Gov. Folsom, who has sent state investigators into Jefferson County to hunt down masked floggers, yesterday made a stirring speech asking Alabamians to aid police in "removing the scourge from Alabama."

"I will do everything I can to stop these would-be Hitlers who engage in mob violence," he said.

"We must prove Alabama is able to defend the fundamental rights of all citizens, regardless of race, color or creed."

"No matter how mean a person may be," the governor said, "he is entitled to a trial by jury and no mob of thugs is going to take it away from him."

Indictments Name 14 Persons; 12 Already Jailed

BY FRANK D. PRAYTOR
International News Service
Staff Correspndent

BIRMINGHAM, Ala — (INS) — Jefferson County officers struck swiftly Monday, and by mid-afternoon had rounded up 12 of 14 persons named in indictments in connection with Birmingham's siege of nightrider activities.

Other arrests were expected momentarily.

Among those taken into custody was suburban Police Chief Elmer Bailey Brock, of Brookside. Brock voluntarily surrendered to Sheriff Holt McDowell and posted $600 bond on two charges—neglect of duty and intimidation of a witness.

Two others also posted bonds of $1,000 each.

Five others were held without bond, and two others were jailed in lieu of a $1,000 bond.

Held without bond, for allegedly breaking into the home of Mrs. Edna McDanal, of Westwood, and dragging her outside to witness a cross burning, were:

Rchard Loller, 33; Albert Swindle 32; A. C. Carradine; Roy Landrum 25; and Colman E. Loller, Alias Brownie Loller, a former special Deputy Sheriff.

The five also were charged with flogging while masked and boycotting. Bond on each count was set at $1,000.

The boycotting charges grew out of threats against a restaurant operator, D. Mashler, for serving Negroes.

Carradine was named in four counts of flogging.

Moody Nations, 44 of Black Creek, was named on three flogging counts. He has not yet posted bond.

Robert E. Chambliss, 45, an employee of Birmingham's City Repair Shop, was named on a flogging count, and was named on a flogging failed to post $1,000 bond. He was involved in the May 25 flogging at Coalburg, Aka.

Mel Fields, 41, and William Allen Byrd, 28, posted $1,000 bond on one count of flogging.

A series of 44 indictments were returned Saturday afternoon by a Special Grand Jury following a 7-day probe in connection with the wave of hooded terrorism. Nearly 90 witnesses paraded in an out of the jury room during its investigation.

One official of the Ku Klux Klan, William H. Morris, a Birmingham contractor, was ordered jailed for contempt when he refused to turn over KKK records requested by the Grand Jury.

Morris was ordered released on $500 bond Saturday on condition he supply another Grand Jury the Klan records. He declined, and is still behind bars.

Meanwhile, in Montgomery, Morris' attorneys said they would seek to have the state supreme court release Morris on a writ of review for his contempt citation.

Teachers Cleared Of Klan Speech

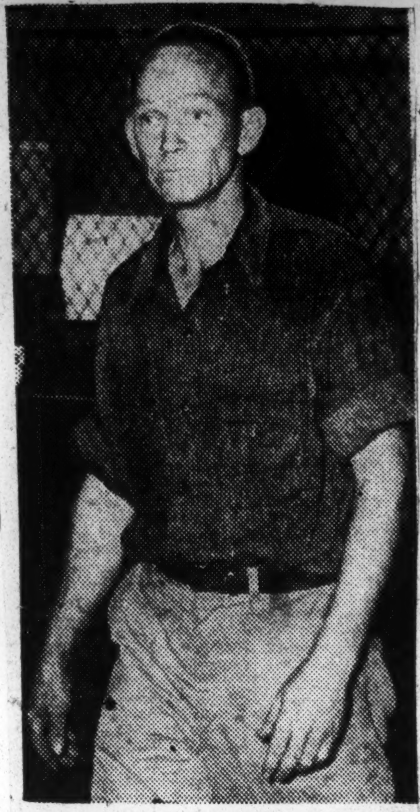
BIRMINGHAM, ALA., Sept. 27 —(AP)— The principal and teachers of Cane Creek School, where a Ku Klux Klansman addressed a P.-T. A.-sponsored box supper, were cleared of blame today by a school official.

Dr. I. F. Simmons, superintendent of Jefferson County schools, said his office has investigated a speech made by Klan Chief William Hugh Morris Friday night at the Cane Creek School.

The school principal, Mrs. Dena Blackburn, and the teachers were not informed of plans for the talk, Simmons said, and "cannot be blamed."

Morris' appearance followed by four days the KKK leaders' release from county jail, where he served 67 days for contempt of court.

Mrs. Lorine Hill, secretary of the Cane Creek P.-T. A., says she invited Morris to speak at the affair.



ON CARPET—Robert Chambliss.

Smashed Press Camera At Klan Parley In County

But Worker Says He'll Fight Green Resignation Order

Robert Chambliss, an employe of the city garage who smashed the flash gun on a newspaper man's camera at a Klan meeting, won't resign his job. He is going to fight an ultimatum from Mayor Cooper Green to "quit or be fired."

Mayor Green called Chambliss to his office this afternoon to discuss the smashing of Reporter George Cook's (of The Post) flash gun Friday night at a Warrior gathering of Klansmen.

* * *

COOK TOLD Mayor Green that he took a picture of the crowd at the Klan meeting. Then, he said, Chambliss walked up to him and asked who had given him permission to take a picture.

Cook said he told Chambliss that it was a public gathering and no permission was necessary.

Chambliss, Cook told the mayor, followed him across the highway and snatched the flash gun from his camera.

Chambliss told Green that the reporter whistled at him to turn around just before the picture was taken.

* * *

THE PICTURE TAKEN by Cook did not show Chambliss.

"They've been using me to make front page news," Chambliss told the mayor. "I didn't think they had a right to take my picture."

Chambliss said he had gone to Warrior with several other city employes "just to see what Hugh Morris had to say."

The mayor told Chambliss that the newspaper had a right to make pictures of any public happening.

* * *

MAYOR GREEN reminded Chambliss that this was the third talk he had had with him. Chambliss had been suspended for 10 days for conduct unbecoming a city employe in connection with the threatened bombing of a house in North Smithfield.

Chambliss was one of the men recently indicted by the Grand Jury on charge of flogging while masked.

Chambliss was given until tomorrow to resign or be fired.

He said he would retain a lawyer and take the case to the Civil Service Board.

ISN'T TALKING JUST NOW

~~Constitution, Atlanta, Ga.~~

Klan Chief Believes He Knows Record Thief

Mon. 7-25-49

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—(AP)—Ku Klux Klan Chief William Hugh Morris said yesterday he thinks he knows who burglarized "sacred" klan records from his home—but he isn't talking, not just now.

His home was ransacked Wednesday night while he was in the County Jail on contempt of court charges for refusing to produce the records.

He called the documents "sacred" and said he would let the jail "rot around me" before betraying the hooded order's secrets.

He tried to get out of jail by arguing the papers were stolen and he could not produce them. Turned down on this plea, he Saturday posted a $500 release bond set two weeks earlier. Mon. 7-25-49

Free for the first time in 16 days, Morris would not elaborate at the present on his suspicions in the record stealing.

His arrest came while grand jurors were digging into an orgy of night-rider hoodlumism. Eighteen persons since have been indicted and arrested.

Klansmen denied any part in beatings, threats and cross-burnings leading to the indictments. They have declared political war on Atty. Gen. Albert A. Carmichael who charges them with "hoodlumism, depredation, and violence." Mon. 7-25-49

Morris said the order soon will have 100,000 members and they will vote "in a solid bloc."

Carmichael, a potential candidate for Governor next year, urged a Birmingham citizens' committee to move to dissolve the Klan charter.

Asks Action To Dissolve Its Charter

Sun. 7-24-49

William Hugh Morris, jailed Ku Klux Klan leader, made $500 bond early Saturday evening and left Jefferson County Jail, according to the sheriff's office.

Atty. Gen. Albert A. Carmichael has called on the Committee of 500 to use its influence with the Jefferson County legislative delegation to pass a local act dissolving the charter of the Ku Klux Klan.

The attorney general Saturday said he had attempted to get in touch with members of the citizens committee to make personal appeals for the group to seek legislative aid in revoking the Klan charter.

"I was unable to reach many of the members of the committee and am asking that the newspapers make public my plea, so as to reach as many of the committee members as possible, as soon as possible," Carmichael said.

The Jefferson County legislative delegation will meet at 7:30 p.m. Monday at the Courthouse.

* * *

Carmichael's Statement

THE ATTORNEY general's statement follows:

"The Federated Ku Klux Klan, Inc., is an Alabama corporation, chartered under the laws of the State of Alabama. Its charter is filed in the office of the probate judge of Jefferson County. This corporation acts by permission granted it by the State of Alabama.

"When it is shown that the acts of such a corporation are injurious to the people of Alabama, the state, acting through its Legislature, has the power to revoke its charter. The Constitution of the State of Alabama so provides.

* * *

Asks Quick Action

"UNDER THE LAWS of Alabama, the charter of the Federated Ku Klux Klan, Inc., may be revoked only by a local act of the Legislature. The Jefferson County delegation in the Legislature has the power to advertise such a local bill, to introduce it in the Legislature and make such a bill a law of the state. May I be so bold as to respectfully urge the Jefferson Count[y] delegation to immediately advertise such a bill, to the end that it be made a law by the present Legislature. Unless this is done immediately, it will not be possible to enact such a bill in the present Legislature.

"May I take this means to respectfully urge the Committee of 500 in Jefferson County, to immediately bring this matter to the attention of the Jefferson County delegation in the Legislature. The writer brought the matter to the attention of as many members of this committee today as could be reached.

Sun. 7-24-49

* * *

'Under Color Of Law'

"IT IS SIMPLY unthinkable that the great State of Alabama should sit idly by and allow the Ku Klux Klan to perform its acts of hoodlumism, depredation and violence, under color of law. The Federated Ku Klux Klan is a creature of the laws of Alabama. All of the unlawful acts it commits are committed under color of law. The state has the power to say to the Federated Ku Klux Klan, Inc., that it shall no longer commit its unlawful acts under the color of authority granted by the state.

"If we are not just shadow-boxing, let's go ahead, get the job done and pass on to other things. Again I urge the Committee of 500 in Jefferson County to bring the matter to the attention of the Jefferson County delegation."

K. K. K. Chief Files New Plea For Freedom

The News
Birmingham, Ala.
Fri. 7-22-49

Declares Burglars Took Data Wanted By Grand Jurors

The Ku Klux Klan will enter next year's state election—"voting as a unit"—William Hugh Morris, the Klan leader, said today in County Jail.

Morris predicted that by next year's election the Klan will "have more than 100,000 votes." Fri. 7-22-49

"I only hope that instead of so many good men running for governor," Morris said, "at least one good man will turn up for attorney general."

Atty. Gen. Albert Carmichael has vigorously lambasted the Klan in recent weeks and has appeared before the Supreme Court to keep Morris in jail.

William Hugh Morris' attorney today filed a petition seeking the Klan leader's freedom, partly on the grounds that Klan records sought by a Grand Jury were stolen Wednesday night from Morris' home.

Atty. Hugh Locke filed a motion today before Judge Alta King in Circuit Court declaring that the Klan records asked by a Grand Jury were stolen and that "it has now become impossible for him to comply with terms of the decree."

Judge Robert J. Wheeler had sentenced the portly Klan leader to jail "until you produce the evidence asked by the Grand Jury."

THE KLAN LEADER'S attorney filed an amendment to an earlier petition this afternoon. The amendment included the plea that the Klan records were stolen and that it would be impossible to produce the evidence asked by the Grand Jury.

Morris was brought from the jail this morning to appear in Judge King's court where Atty. Locke had presented a petition to modify or set aside the citation.

Mr. Locke asked the court for time to amend his petition because of the ransaking of Morris' Gardendale home where the Klan leader said he kept his records.

Morris said his wife had advised him that the burglars had "gone over the house with a fine tooth comb."

Ala. Klansman, Defiant, Goes Back to Jail

The Constitution
Atlanta, Ga.

MONTGOMERY, Ala. —(AP)— The Alabama Supreme Court again left unsettled yesterday the fate of a Ku Klux Klan leader jailed for refusing to give names of Klan members.

For the second time in three days, the court heard arguments on the appeal of William Hugh Morris, who has been in jail in Birmingham since last Thursday on a contempt of court citation.

Morris, director of the Federated Ku Klux Klan, Inc., refused to make a list of KKK members available to a Jefferson (Birmingham) County Grand Jury which was investigating recent terrorism by hooded, white-robed men.

Circuit Judge Robert J. Wheeler then tried to get the information for the Jury and Morris again refused. The judge ordered him jailed until he agrees to disclose the membership. Fri. 7-15-49

The five Supreme Court justices who heard the appeal yesterday took the question under advisement without announcing a decision or saying when one would come. Morris wants the tribunal to review the entire contempt proceedings and to grant him bond pending the outcome.

Circuit Judge Wheeler offered to let him out on bail once on condition he would promise to make the membership information available to a new Grand Jury. The Jury that asked for it was discharged last Saturday.

Morris declined and is still in jail.

ALABAMA SEIZES 12 IN HOODED VIOLENCE

New York, N.Y.

Ex-Deputy Sheriff Arrested as Leader of Floggers—

Tue. 7-12-49

Round-Up of 17 Pushed

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., July 11 (UP)—A former special deputy sheriff was accused today as a ring-leader of Alabama's hooded floggers in a round-up of seventeen men indicted for terrorism. A suburban police chief also was among those arrested.

By late today eleven of the seventeen had been taken into custody. Five of them were ordered held without bond, including the two most heavily indicted men on the list—Coleman A. (Brownie) Lollar, 35 years old, and A. B. Carradine, 39. Each was accused of four separate acts of flogging while masked, one of "boycotting" and one of first-degree burglary.

Lollar was identified as the special Jefferson County deputy who acted as armed lookout for a Ku Klux Klan at Adamsville three weeks ago. Sheriff Holt A. McDowell stripped him of his commission after the incident.

One woman victim of the more than a dozen floggings in West Jefferson County had identified Lollar as the man who knocked on her door when she was seized by a mob, taken out and flogged.

Silent on Klan Membership

Lollar's brother, Richard, also was among those arrested. The Lollars refused to say whether they were members of the Ku Klux Klan which, as an organization, has denied participation in the violence. Tue. 7-12-49

Brownie Lollar was indicted for the masked floggings of Mrs. Hugh McDanal, Mary Henderson, 25; Jack Alexander and William Stevens. He was held without bond on the burglary count, also involving Mrs. McDanal's abduction, and bond was set at $1,000 on each of the flogging counts.

Others arrested are Moodie Nations, 44, of Flat Creek; James F. Shaffer, 48, of Brookside; Elmer Bailey Brock, 50, Police Chief of Brookside, scene of several cases of violence by hooded mobs; Robert E. Chambless, 45, city garage employe; Mel Fields, 41, boiler fireman; William Allen Byrd, 28, boilermaker; Albert Swindle, 32; Roy Landrum, 25, and Henry Nelson, 50, of Flat Creek.

Nations was accused of participating in the Henderson, Alexander and Stevens case, and Shaffer was charged with "boycotting," specifically threatening a cafe operator who served both whites and Negroes.

Brock was accused of neglect ofd uty and intimidation of a witness. He was released in $300 bond on each count.

Chambliss allegedly threatened to blow up the home of a Negro who moved into a white neighborhood. He was charged with flogging while masked in the case of Bill Hamilton, a coal miner who was taken from his home and whipped. His bond was set at $1,000.

Chambliss denied he had ever been a Klansman, as did Byrd.

Indicted in Case of Veteran

Fields was indicted for flogging while masked in the Hamilton case and Byrd for the flogging of Billy Guyton Stovall, 31-year-old Navy veteran who bought a gun after the hoodlums whipped him and defied them to come after him again.

Carradine, the Lollar brothers, Swindle and Londrum were held without bond on burglary charges in the McDonal case. All were from the West Jefferson County mining area and all were also accused of flogging and "boycotting."

The "boycotting" charges were believed connected with the intimidation of Steve Marshaler, cafe operator of Brookside, who was warned by a masked man to discontinue serving both Negroes and whites.

Solicitor Emmet Perry said the indictments only "scratched the surface" of the mob violence study. Circuit Judge George Lewis Bailes swore in a new grand jury, this one containing a Negro, at noon and charged it to "clean up" the investigation.

Today, Sheriff Luther Bozeman of Shelby County reported that two masked men had flogged a widow of a former Birmingham druggist in Columbiana, Shelby County seat, about six weeks ago. He identified the victim as Mrs. Flo Goodman, 45.

Tue. 7-12-49

Jailed Klansman Seeks Liberty

MONTGOMERY, Ala., July 11 (AP)—An attorney argued before the Alabama Supreme Court today that the Ku Klux Klan was the most effective agency to fight communism.

The attorney, Hugh Locke, was trying to gain release from jail of William Hugh Morris, a director of the Federated Ku Klux Klan, Inc. Morris has been in jail for contempt of court since Thursday when he refused to produce a list of Klan members for a grand jury investigating recent terrorism.

Court justices, sitting in special session, advised Mr. Locke that communism had no bearing on the contempt case against Morris. They took the plea for Morris' release under advisement.

Top Klansman Is Released On $500 Bond

The Advertiser Montgomery

Morris Changes Mind; Minister Is Indicted For Masked Flogging

Sun. 7-24-49

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., July 23 (AP)—Alabama's top Klansman, William Hugh Morris, tonight was released from jail on $500 bond.

The heavy-set director of the Federated Ku Klux Klans, Inc. had been in jail for contempt. He was sentenced July 7, when he refused to bring Klan records before a grand jury.

Attorney Hugh Locke, who has defended Morris at court hearings, was present at the Klan leader's release. He told newsmen that Morris "got a bonding agency to put up the $500."

The release, according to Locke, was effected in accordance with a decree of July 9, when Circuit Judge Robert J. Wheeler set bond for Morris provided he would agree to bring the Klan records to court.

Morris declined to sign the bond and was kept in jail.

He was released tonight upon agreement that he would make an effort to find the records, which he has claimed have been stolen. P. 1

Asked what prompted the Klan leader to change his mind to sign bond and leave, his attorney said "I don't know the reason."

Locke said Mrs Morris, wife of the Klan leader, met her husband as he left the jail.

Legal Position Uncertain

When asked what Morris' legal position would be now that he's out on bail, Locke replied: "One fellow's guess is as good as the next one's."

Earlier today, Morris failed to win release from jail on the ground that the records have been stolen and he cannot bring them in. In another development, a grand jury charged a minister with three masked floggings.

The minister, the Rev. R. C. Lyons, 47, is the 18th man indicted in the state's campaign against hooded lashers. All are out on bond.

Plea Dismissed

Judge Alta L. King dismissed Morris' plea for release today, saying his court had no jurisdiction. P. 2

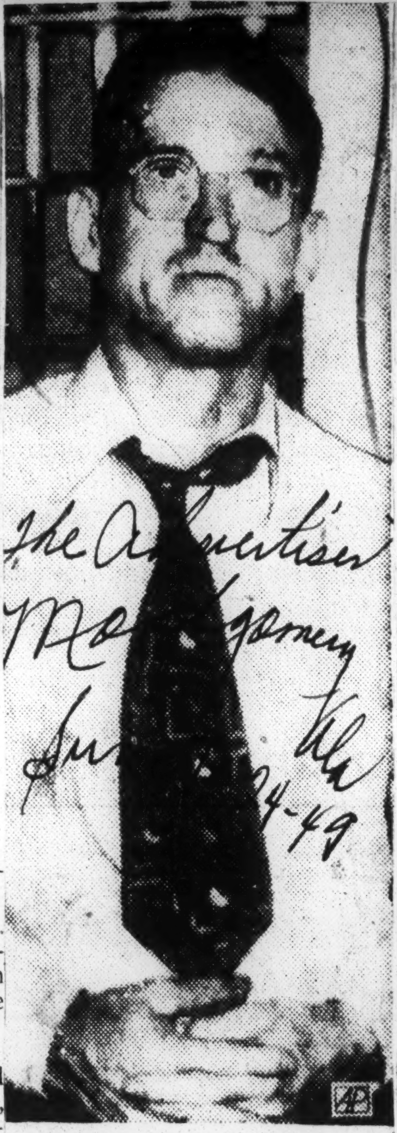
Judge King told Morris, after that decision:

"Mr. Morris, I sympathize with you and I admire a man who stands by what he thinks is right. However, that has no bearing in this case."

Morris' attorney, Hugh Locke, said he would make another attempt before the Alabama Supreme Court. That body last week denied a review of the Morris contempt case.

The Rev. Lyons, in jail since Tuesday on a warrant, was charged by one flogging victim with praying over him just before the lash was applied.

Lyons, who took his New Testament into jail with him, told newsmen he had been "preaching about three years." He said he had no regular church, and was a mule-handler at a coal mine on weekdays.



REV. R. C. LYONS

Top Klansman 15th Alabama Mob Suspect Is Arrested

The Post Washington D.C.

Wed. 7-13-49

Birmingham, Ala., July 12 (U.P.)—Officers brought in a fifteenth flogging suspect today, but two others on the list of 17 indicted for participation in Alabama's wave of hooded terrorism were reported "out of the State."

It was said both men were expected back this weekend. Six of those charged have made bond, but nine others still were in jail late today. Burglary charges against six of them are not bailable.

Morris Called Again

A new grand jury, charged with cleaning up the mob violence investigation, called William Hugh Morris, Ku Klux Klan director, from his jail cell to testify.

Like the retiring grand jury which indicted the 17, the new investigating body had subpenaed Morris to furnish it with a list of the Klan membership in Jefferson County. When he refused the old jury's request, Circuit Judge Robert J. Wheeler jailed him.

Police Chief Arrested

Among those arrested yesterday were a suburban police chief, Elmer Brook of Brookside, and a former special deputy sheriff, Coleman (Brownie) Lollar.

Today, it was disclosed that two others caught in the round-up had law enforcement connections. James F. Shaffer, 48, of Brookside, was a part-time policeman, and assistant to Chief Brock, officers said. Wed. 7-13-49

Henry Nelson, 50, was reported to be a constable in the Flat Creek community.

Four special State officers have arrived in Birmingham to assist the new Jefferson County grand jury.

The prisoner showed no disposition to comply with the new demand to supply the Klan roster.

Klan Stands Stripped Of Claim To Privacy Of Its K. K. K. Records

The News Birmingham, Ala

Wed. 7-27-49

And Tomorrow Morris Must Answer Jury On Requested Papers

The Federated Ku Klux Klan today stands stripped of its claim to privacy of its records. This right was stripped from the hooded order by a decision of the Alabama Supreme Court released yesterday.

Meanwhile, the Klan's portly director, William Hugh Morris, must make an answer tomorrow to the third Grand Jury request for the Klan records.

Twice before he has refused to give up the records. He is at present under a $500 conditional bond after promising in writing to deliver the records to this Grand Jury.

The promise by Morris came last Saturday when he signed the bond which had been fixed two weeks earlier by Circuit Judge Robert J. Wheeler. Wed. 7-27-49

Judge Wheeler sentenced Morris to jail for contempt of court on July 7, after he had refused the Grand Jury's request for Klan records. The conditional bond was fixed two days later.

* * *

THE KLAN BOSS refused to sign the bond. He spent 16 days in County Jail. During this time he declared that he "would let the jail rot down" around him before he would agree to disclose Klan secrets.

Morris apparently changed his mind Saturday after Circuit Judge Alta L. King had rejected a petition by Morris' attorney, Hugh A. Locke, to modify the original decree.

Judge King ruled that his court no longer had jurisdiction in the matter since the Alabama Supreme Court had upheld Judge Wheeler's decree.

The written opinion of the high state tribunal was released yesterday. It pointed out that "an open door to freedom" was available to Morris by signing the conditional bond. Wed. 7-27-49

THE COURT also held that "the first duty of every citizen is allegiance to the constitution and laws of the state and nation and the lawful jugments and decrees of the courts."

The opinion further stated that "this loyalty cannot be supplemented by self-assumed allegiance to a private fraternal or other corporation organized under the statutes of this state."

The court's opinion reaffirmed the state's power of control over organizations it creates.

"Only privileged communications and facts made so by law or lawful government regulations are protected from disclosure.

"The identity of membership of (the Klan) does not fall within such privileged class."

The right of the Grand Jury to conduct an investigation which might require such records was upheld.

THE COURT SAID:

"In view of some argument that the Grand Jury had no right to engage in a 'fishing expedition' we think it should be noticed that one Jury back into special session at 9:30 a.m. tomorrow.

Perry said Morris will be called before the Grand Jury to "give any evidence he may have." This will include any evidence the Klan leader may possess concerning an alleged burglary of the Morris home in Mount Olive last Wednesday night. Wed. 7-27-49

MORRIS CLAIMS the Klan records were stolen from his home and that he is no longer in possession of them.

Solicitor Perry made it clear that Morris will again be asked to produce the records.

Official circles would not speculate today on what course the courts may take should Morris attempt to show that he can no longer comply with the court order to produce the records.

Since his release from jail Morris has stated that he "thought" he might know the persons responsible for the theft of the disputed records. Wed. 7-27-49

Presumably, under the terms of the conditional bond, Morris is bound to do everything in his power to make Klan records available to the Grand Jury. This may include the disclosure by him of the names of persons he believes now have the records.

From Klansman Bush

Editor, The Advertiser:

It takes lots of money and months and months and months to try a communist spy. Ones that advocate the overthrow of our government. But it doesn't take but four minutes to decide the fate of the Klan.

The communist are fighting the Klan but the Klan must not fight back, because they say the communist are legal, but the Klan is not. Why do some of our official "Big Ones" try to enforce laws on us to cause disunity among races, laws against our Southern traditions, laws we cannot accept? Seems that some of these laws might be playing into the hands of the communists.

You hear lots of whispering these days on streets about such. Why are we afraid to meet and discuss these things? Is it our freedom is getting shorter? I have heard of things like this. The Klan are all Americans, but when you say Klan these days you had better whisper, or if you know a Klansman keep it to yourself because it is open season on it.

BARTO BUSH,

Clayton, Ala., Rt. 2.

Advertiser 7-29-49

Court Delays Ruling On Klan Chief's Release To Thursday

Jue. 7-12-49 Advertiser, Montgomery, Ala.

The State Supreme Court heard a Ku Klux Klan leader's appeal for release from jail yesterday, but took no action.

Because only four justices were present, the fate of William Hugh Morris, of Birmingham, was left undecided until Thursday when the other two active members of the court can hear the case. Both were out of town yesterday.

Morris, state director of the Federated Ku Klux Klan, Incorporated, was ordered to jail last Thursday after refusing to produce a list of KKK members for a grand jury which was investigating recent night-riding activities of hooded mobs.

When he declined to give the information to the grand jury, the Klan official was taken before Circuit Judge Robert J. Wheeler and again refused to disclose the membership list. Judge Wheeler sentenced him to jail until he agrees to produce it.

Defense Attorney Hugh Locke argued vigorously yesterday that Morris was innocent of any contempt because he was taken into court with no charge against him and without a chance to defend himself against a contempt citation.

Even if he had been guilty, Locke contended, the KKK leader should have been released Saturday when the grand jury was discharged. Once the jury was dismissed, said the attorney, Morris was left with no authorized body to make a report to.

Morris Declines

Judge Wheeler offered to release the Klan director on $500 bail Saturday provided he promised to turn over the membership list to a new grand jury which was ordered impaneled yesterday. Morris declined and stayed in jail.

Locke told the Supreme Court that was wrong because there was no assurance the new jury would even take up the Klan question or ask for the membership records if it did.

The state, represented by Asst. Attys. Gen. Si Garrett and Taylor Hardin, disagreed sharply with both defense contentions and insisted Judge Wheeler was "100 per cent right" in holding Morris in contempt.

Garrett and Hardin argued the grand jury is an arm of the court and the judge was the only man who could see that the jury's orders were obeyed. They pointed out that the subpoena which called the Klan official before the grand jury directed him to make the membership information available.

As to whether the contempt expired when the jury was discharged, the state contended Judge Wheeler's action in sending Morris to jail was the law until a higher court reversed him. Therefore, the two attorneys continued, he should remain in jail until he complied with the judge's order.

Although the merits of the Ku Klux Klan were not at issue in yesterday's hearing, they came in for repeated mention. Locke at one point even observed that the KKK is "fighting communism."

That remark brought a polite reminder from the court that the discussion was getting away from the question at issue.

The defense attorney also questioned the grand jury's right to ask for the Klan records in the first place. He denounced this part of the jury's investigation as a "fishing expedition."

State attorneys insisted the request was valid because the KKK was under investigation in connection with recent floggings and cross burnings in Jefferson County.

Members of the Supreme Court interrupted the arguments several times to ask questions or make remarks about the case.

Justice Thomas S. Lawson, for instance, cited a recent U. S. Supreme Court decision which said a person can't be held in contempt of court without an opportunity to defend himself unless the offense involves misconduct so bad it interferes with the procedure of the court.

Justice Lawson said he thought that decision should apply in the Morris case.

Presiding Judge Joel B. Brown didn't. He regarded Morris' refusal to disclose the KKK records as contempt and said so flatly.

"If that's not direct contempt," Justice Brown observed, "I don't know what would be."

He summed the case up this way: "The question is this—which is bigger, the court or the witness?"

The other two justices sitting in on the hearing were J. Ed Livingston and Davis Stakely. Justices Robert T. Simpson and A. B. Foster were out of the city but are expected back for Thursday's session. The seventh member, Chief Justice Lucien D. Gardner, is ill and has been inactive for several months.

12 Arrests Made In Jefferson Probe Of Hooded Hoodlums

The Advertiser, Montgomery, Ala. Jue. 7-12-49

11 Men Are Charged With Acts Of Terrorism; Police Chief Indicted For Neglect Of Duty

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., July 11—(AP)—Twelve arrests were made today on charges brought by a grand jury which investigated hooded hoodlums in this area.

Eleven were charged with acts of terrorism. One, a police chief, was indicted for intimidating a witness and for neglect of duty.

Three other warrants were in the hands of sheriff's deputies. Two more were delayed by absence of the men indicted.

New Jury Organized

As Sheriff Holt McDowell's men made the arrests, a new grand jury was organized here. It was instructed to continue the investigation of floggings, cross burnings and threats.

A high Ku Klux Klan official, William Hugh Morris, remained in jail on a contempt of court sentence as the state supreme court at Montgomery considered his case, but failed to act. The court set the case down for a full hearing Thursday at 10 a.m.

Morris was sentenced last Thursday for refusing to bring Klan records before the grand jury.

KKK officials have asserted the Klan had nothing to do with masked mobs in this or any other Alabama county. Dr. E. P. Pruitt, president of the Federated Ku Klux Klans, Inc., said today he would "banish any Klansman found guilty" of flogging.

Normally, the men arrested today would be tried in September.

Charges brought by the grand jury fall chiefly into three groups.

Several men were charged with first degree burglary. That is a felony, punishable by 10 years imprisonment to death. No bond is allowed.

Punishable To 10 Years

A larger group was charged with flogging while masked, also a felony. It is punishable by imprisonment for a year and a day to 10 years.

Others were charged with boycotting, a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of $100 to $1,000, and imprisonment up to six months. Boycotting covers any unlawful interference with a business.

In addition, Police Chief Elmer Brock, of Brookside, was indicted for intimidation and neglect of duty. Both are misdemeanors, but intimidation is punishable by a fine up to $1,000, and up to one year in jail. Neglect is punishable by a fine only, with $1,000 the maximum.

Brookside was the scene of a raid by masked and hooded men the night of June 10. A restaurant was raided, cleared of its occupants, and its owner forced to witness the burning of a cross.

Deputy Charged

Coleman A. (Brownie) Lollar, 35, former special deputy sheriff, was charged with first degree burglary, five counts of flogging while masked, and with boycotting.

He surrendered his deputy's commission on June 18, the day after state officers said they found him guarding a meeting of the Adamsville, Ala., Ku Klux Klan.

At that time, Lollar said he was not a member of the Klan.

Other arrests included:

Albert Swindle, 32, Praco, charged with first degree burglary and boycotting. No bond allowed.

A. B. Carridine, 69, Quintown, first degree burglary, flogging while masked, and boycotting. No bond.

Roy Landrum, 25, Quintown, first degree burglary, flogging while masked, and boycotting. No bond.

Robert F. Chambliss, 45, City of Birmingham garage repairman, flogging while masked, bond $1,000.

William A. Byrd, Birmingham, flogging while masked, bond $1,000.

Melvin Fields, Birmingham flogging while masked, bond $1,000.

Moody Nations, 44, Flat Creek three counts, flogging while masked. Bond $1,000 each.

Richard Lollar, 33, brother of Coleman A. Lollar, flogging while masked, bond $1,000.

Harry Nelson, Flat Creek, three counts, flogging while masked. No bond set.

James Floyd Shaffer, 48, boycotting, bond $500.

KLAN CHIEF SPARED 2D CONTEMPT RULE

Judge Refuses Petition Since Morris Is Already Jailed on First Citation

Thurs. 7-14-49 New York, N.Y.

By JOHN N. POPHAM

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., July 13—The legal battle to obtain vital records and membership lists of Alabama's Federated Ku Klux Klan, Inc., moved forward today on two fronts.

A county grand jury and the Deputy Circuit Solicitor here asked but did not get a second contempt of court citation against William Hugh Morris, state director of the Ku Klux Klan, jailed since last Thursday on his refusal to turn Klan documents over to another grand jury.

In Montgomery, the capital, attorneys were preparing arguments to be presented tomorrow before the State Supreme Court in a hearing on Morris' application for a writ of certiorari that would require the Supreme Court to review the facts in the first contempt proceedings.

Threefold Purpose Seen

It was apparent that prosecuting officials attached great importance to the Morris case and that the legal skirmishes at various juridical levels were part of a threefold purpose in the campaign against acts of violence by hooded mobs.

First, the Klan membership lists would help the prosecution to make sure no Klansmen were seated on any jury that judges the seventeen persons indicted here last week on various charges arising from neighriding and flogging by masked mobs.

Second, in any move to revoke the charter of the Federated Ku Klux Klan it is important to show that Klan members have participated in acts inimical to the best interests of the state. A membership list that included the names of those now under indictment would support such charges.

Third, the prosecution's case woudl be strengthened in the trial courts if it could show from the membership lists that those under indictment were Klansmen during the period that hooded and masked groups committed acts of depredation.

Mr. Morris, a Birmingham roofing contractor, appeared before the grand jury that last Saturday returned forty-four indictments against seventeen persons in connection with mob violence in the rural areas of Jefferson County beyond the city limits of Birmingham, the county seat.

Floggings Again Jury Called Back

Daily World, Atlanta, Ga. Thu. 7-21-49

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.— (INS) The Jefferson county grand jury Wednesday was summoned back to session tomorrow Friday to continue its probe of masked floggings and night-riding. The call was issued by Circuit Judge Alta L. King, who said he was issuing the call in "The Public Interest" during the absence of Judge George L. Bailes, who organized the jury.

The jury will be the same as that in session last week when it was disclosed that it contained an Ex-Ku Klux Klan member. A former convict and an illiterate.

Meanwhile, a 46-year old preacher who allegedly prayed for a flogging victim by a masked group at Graysville, Ala., was being held in the Jefferson county (Birmingham) jail without bond.

The Ex-Coal miner-preacher was identified as R. C. Lyons, who said He was an assembly of God minister. He was taken into custody by state investigators late Wednesday after a lash victim, Jack Alexander spotted him in Graysville.

Jury In Session: K. K. K.

A new flogging also came to light Wednesday in Goodwater, Ala., where a 25-year old resident related how he and a Negro farmer — both former service men — were beaten by armed, but unmasked men last night.

S. G. Bailey, of near Goodwater, told authorities that he was at home with his wife when two cars and a pickup truck stopped in front of his house about 8 o'clock.

Bailey said he was ordered to come out, and upon doing so found himself facing guns. He added that the unidentified Negro was already in one of the cars.

Both were taken to a wooded spot near Millerville, in Clay county, 12 miles from Goodwater, where both were tied to a tree and beaten with a sawmill belt.

Bailey stated he was not beaten as badly as the Negro, who was chased from the scene of the flogging. Bailey hitch-hiked a ride back home. 7-21-49

Sheriff John McEwen said he had been informed that there was some "trouble over whiskey."

Bailey declared that he was "positive" the floggers were not members of the Ku Klux Klan. He added: "I know, because I'm a Klansman myself."

Sheriff McEwen said Bailey stated he recognized one of the floggers ... but declined to divulge the identity.

Records Stolen, Alabama Klan Chief Repeats

Fri. 7-29-49

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—(AP)—Ku Klux Klan Chief William Hugh Morris told reporters yesterday he has been unable to find missing Klan records sought by a Grand Jury. Atlanta, Ga.

He made the statement while waiting to be called before the jury, which reconvened after a week's recess. The Jury is investigating mob violence by hooded night riders in this district.

Morris, who spent 16 days in jail for refusing to bring the secret records before a previous Grand Jury, said he would now turn them over to the Jury if he can find them. He says they were stolen from his home July 20.

He added that it had never been his intention to defy the Court and he thought he was within his legal rights.

The people's fight against the Ku Klux Klan and masked violence today moved forward on several fronts. The News

1. The Grand Jury reconvened at 9 a.m. today for "hearing evidence on all law violations." It had been in recess exactly a week.

2. The Ku Klux Klan announced a mass meeting in the City Hall at Tarrant for 8 p.m.

3. William Mitch, district president, United Mine Workers of America, has told his miners to get out of the Klan or get out of the union.

4. The Jefferson County Council, American Legion, has hit at "bungling" in law enforcement.

5. A move yesterday by Atty. Gen. Albert Carmichael to get the Klan charter in Alabama revoked by legislative action apparently failed. Birmingham, Ala.

6. Dr. E. P. Pruitt, who once headed the Ku Klux Klan in Alabama, resigned yesterday after striking out at masked floggings.

7. William Hugh Morris, director of the Federated Ku Klux Klan in Alabama, revealed to The News that he has actually headed the Klan in the state since June 16. He accepted Dr. Pruitt's resignation at 3:30 p.m. Wednesday. Fri. 7-22-49

DR. PRUITT told newsmen that he is going to move his medical practice to Springville.

"I have never approved of the mask in the Klan," Dr. Pruitt said. "I have never worn one in the new organization."

The aging physician noted that "certain elements have crept into the Klan and are using the mask and the lash. I don't approve of the actions of some of those men."

Dr. Pruitt is the second of the original incorporators of the Klan here to resign. Robert S. Gullege, Sr., quit the Klan as an officer on April 28, 1947.

The meeting to be held tonight in Tarrant is to "give the Klan's side."

Morris said the speaker, Dr. Lycurgus Spinks, has been active in Klan work for a long time. Morris said Dr. Spinks has visited him in County Jail.

Alexander Brewis, of Gardendale, who said he held a Klan card in 1947, announced today he has asked to be excused from the Grand Jury.

Four witnesses were heard before the Grand Jury adjourned for lunch today.

HANDBILLS ADVERTISING the mass meeting and promising to "tell the truth about the Ku Klux Klan and hooded floggings," were circulated around the courthouse and posted on bulletin boards late yesterday.

Mayor Felix Erwin, Tarrant City, said the Klan could hold its meeting in City Hall "as long as the meeting is open and conforms with city ordinances and state laws."

In Montgomery yesterday, Carmichael attacked the Klan as a "bunch of hoodlums and bums," according to an Associated Press report.

This statement brought heated words from Jack Brock, former president of the American Federation of Labor in the state.

Brock's brother, Elmer Brock, police chief at Brookside, is under indictment as result of the Grand Jury's probe of terrorist activities.

Brock told the legislative committee before which Carmichael's statement was made that "men of higher caliber than this man (Carmichael) have belonged to the Klan."

Brock mentioned Supreme Court Justice Hugo Black, Solicitor Emmett Perry and Circuit Judge George Lewis Bailes.

All three men have said they were members of the Klan many years ago.

Carmichael told newsmen that he "is not a member of the Ku Klux Klan, has never been a member and never will be a member."

The attorney general said "I have no connection with the Klan. I have opposed it all my life."

THE EFFORT to purge Klansmen from the United Mine Workers of America was in a strongly-worded statement by Mitch.

The union leader pointed to an article of the UMW constitution which he says specifically forbids its members from holding membership in the Ku Klux Klan.

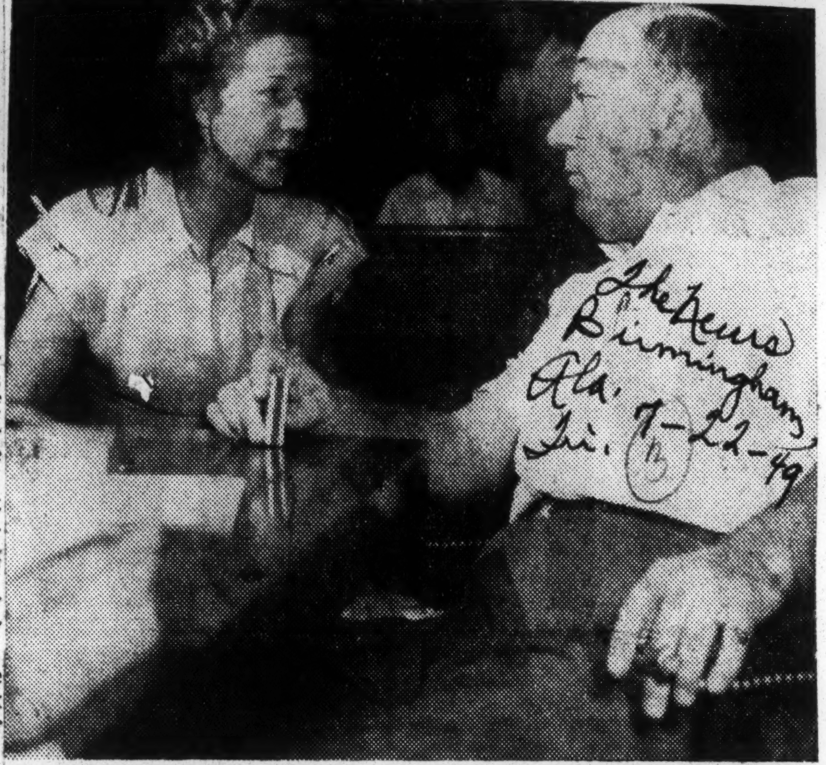
The Grand Jury which met today will "hear any evidence obtained by the sheriff's office, state investigators or persons who wish to come before it," Solicitor Perry said.

When the body was recessed it asked to be called in at any time evidence is obtained on which it could bring indictments in the recent floggings.

Yesterday, Cecil Sanderson, one of the four state investigators working in Jefferson County, told a legislative committee that one klavern of the Ku Klux Klan in Jefferson County was responsible for four out of five recent floggings.

Sanderson identified the klavern as the Stonewall Jackson Klavern, Adamsville. He said three members of the klavern have admitted to him that they rode in caravans at floggings.

Sanderson said further that of the 17 indictments brought in the flogging probe so far all but one were members of the Klan.



WIFE WITH KLAN CHIEF—Mrs. William Hugh Morris appeared in Judge Alta King's court today with her husband in his plea for freedom after being in jail for 15 days for contempt of court.

Klan Records May Be Shown At Next Session

The Advertiser, Montgomery, Ala. Tue. 7-26-49

Solicitor Says Probers To Be Recalled Soon

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., July 25—(AP)—Klan leader William Hugh Morris will be given another chance to produce secret Klan records before a grand jury.

This was indicated today by Solicitor Emmett Perry, who said the grand jury will be called back into session soon.

Records Stolen, He Says

Morris, out of jail on a $500 bond, said the Klan documents were stolen from his home last Wednesday night, along with a number of his business and personal papers. Tue. 7-26-49

The bond requires that he produce the records.

One question before the next grand jury session will be whether Morris can purge himself of a contempt of court sentence by saying he would produce the records if he had them.

Jailed July

The portly director of the Federated Ku Klux Klans, Inc., was jailed July 7 on contempt charges for refusing to turn the Klan documents over to a previous grand jury.

Terming the Klan documents "sacred," he had said he would let the jail "rot around me" before betraying the hooded order's secrets. He reversed this stand Saturday and signed a bond fixed July 9. The bond includes his agreement to bring the records into court. Tue. 7-26-49

18 Arrested

Morris was jailed while grand jurors were investigating a wave of mob terror by night-riding hoodlums. Eighteen persons have been indicted, arrested, and released on bond.

Klansmen deny their order had any part in beatings, threats and cross burnings leading to the indictments.

Atty. Gen. Albert A. Carmichael, a potential candidate for governor next year, has lead a vigorous attack on the Klan, accusing the order of "hoodlumism, depredation and violence."

'Solid Bloc' Vote

The Klan retaliated by declaring political war on Carmichael and promising to go into Alabama politics "in a big way." Leaders have predicted the Klan will soon have a membership of more than 100,000 that will vote "in solid bloc."

Morris Fires Away

Morris said he is the victim of a "witch hunt." He said he is in prison because he incurred the wrath of "a few political cowards."

... At All Connected With Putting Him In Jail

Klan Boss William Hugh Morris — still in jail — kept his promise yesterday by releasing a six-page statement blasting everyone connected with his imprisonment.

He charged State Atty. Gen. Albert A. Carmichael is a former Klansman. Carmichael flatly de-

POLICE CHIEF HOYT SEARCY is shown with the three Negroes who allegedly organized a "Klavern" to scare "bad" Negro girls. The prisoners are (left to right): Tommie Johnson, Raymon McClendon and Robert Miller.

Three Be-Sheeted Ozark Negroes Face Anti-Masking Charges After Organizing 'Klavern' And Terrifying 'Bad' Negro Girls

OZARK, ALA., Aug. 3—Three of six alleged Negro "Ku Kluxers" were jailed here today—the first persons arrested under Alabama's newly-enacted anti-masking law.

All three, said Police Chief Hoyt Searcy, signed confessions to sheet-covered night antics.

Two others accused in warrants have not been apprehended, Searcy said, and a sixth, a minor, was turned over to juvenile authorities.

Chief Searcy quoted the Negroes as saying they donned sheets first on July 14 to scare Negro girls whom they believed had been associating with white men. Later they used the sheets, he said, to scare their own families into advancing money for them to "get out of town."

Searcy identified those held as Tommie Johnson, Robert Miller and Raymon McClendon.

State Investigator C. S. Prier and City Commissioner Tom Goff aided in cracking the case, Searcy reported.

Searcy released the following excerpt from what he described as Johnson's confession:

"One night me (two of those still at large) and Raymon McClendon was walking along about two week before July 14, 1949, and caught two girls (names deleted) with two white men by — colored folks' graveyard.

"(One of the uncaught) said: 'We need some kind of organization to stop these girls. We ought to whip them.'

"I said, 'no, let's get some sheets and scare them a few times and maybe they will quit it.'

"We decided that night to call ourselves the Ku Klux Klan.

"On July 14, 1949, (the released juvenile) and Ray McClendon was to watch the girls and let me and (one of the uncaught) know where they went.

"I heard Eva tell Ruth that 'we are supposed to wait in the alley.' When we heard her say that, I put my sheet over my head and around my face, leaving just enough room to see. (One of the uncaught) had eye holes in his sheet and put it over his head, looking through the eye holes.

"Eva said: 'There comes the Ku Klux' and they ran. We turned around and left."

Three nights later they laid in wait for the two original girls plus another, Johnson's statement said. The girls, however failed to show.

On July 29, the statement continues, Johnson told one of the uncaught that "I need to get out of town." The other replied that "I need to, too." So we decided to write notes to ourselves and send them to our homes ordering us to leave town."

The statement then details how three Negroes dressed in sheets visited their homes knocked and left threatening notes addressed to themselves.

Tommie Johnson's [illegible] him to an aunt's in Pike (Troy) County and took his note to the police. It was from this crudely written note that the arrests developed.

Searcy quoted Prier as being suspicious from the start because of the poorly worded and written note.

Negro Trio Arrested After Forming Own Hood-Mask Group

OZARK, Ala., Aug. 4 — (AP) — Three self-styled Negro Ku Kluxers who put on sheets and chased two Negro girls today faced fines ranging up to $500 apiece.

The three were the first persons arrested under Alabama's five-week old anti-masking law, which forbids wearing masks or hoods in public.

They accused the Negro girls of misconduct, said State Investigator C. S. Prier.

"We need some kind of organization to stop these girls," Prier quoted one of the trio, Tommie Johnson. "We ought to whip them."

The girls were chased down an Ozark street the night of July 14.

A whimsical touch was added to the episode when the three Negroes wrote threatening notes to themselves to "get out of town" in the apparent hope, Prier said, that relatives would provide them with traveling expenses.

Besides Johnson, those arrested were Raymond McClendon and Robert Edward Lee Miller. McLendon made bond, but Johnson and Miller were being held in default of $300 each.

A fourth member of the group, a minor, was turned over to Juvenile authorities. Two other men are being sought, Prier said.

Sentenced Under New Alabama Mask Law

Hooded Defenders of Negro Womanhood Given Jail Terms

(Special to The Courier)

OZARK, Ala.—The "law" moved swiftly last week to convict three Negro youths who donned bed-sheet regalia similar to the Ku Klux Klan's to "protect Negro womanhood from the lust of Alabama white men."

While officers throughout the state have been extremely phlegmatic and impotent about stopping Klan terrorism in flagrant violation of the law, Ozark police experienced no difficulty in taking into custody the six young Negroes involved in mimicking the hooded order.

The three youths convicted in the psuedo-Klan incident to break up what was said to be numerous clandestine affairs between Negro girls and white men in the vicinity, were the first persons sentenced under Alabama's new Anti-Masking Law.

TRIED BEFORE MAYOR

The boys, charged with violating the Anti-Masking Law, were tried before Mayor Douglas Brown. Raymond McClendon, 20, was sentenced to thirty days in jail Saturday. On Friday, Tommie Johnson, 19, was given a six-month jail term, and Robert E. Lee Miller, 21, received sixty days.

The three youths were arrested Tuesday and released under $300 bond the next day, pending their week-end trials. A minor arrested with them was turned over to juvenile authorities.

Police are seeking two other youths in connection with the attempt to prevent Negro girls from having illicit relationships with white men.

CEMETERY TRYST

The youths began their "Klan" activity July 14. After they caught two Negro girls, whose names were given as Eva and Ruth, holding a tryst with the two white men several nights previous in the Negro cemetery.

They decided to form an "organization" to put a stop to the debauchery of Negro womanhood in their community by those who were said to consistently preach "white supremacy" and advocate "segregation."

The youths decided to call themselves the "Ku Klux Klan," garbed themselves in sheets and caused two Negro girls suspected of dating white men to flee one night from the spot where the rendezvous was scheduled.

TIRED OF "DIRT"

One of the boys made it clear that he had no objection to respecable intermingling and dating between the races, but he was tired of white men using Negro women as "dirt."

He said that Southern white men will go to any means to defend so-called racial purity where white women are involved, but that many of the white men espousing such a cause are known to be seducing Negro womanhood," and maybe we ought to try to stop it."

The Alabama Anti-Masking Law was enacted by the legislature six weeks ago after an outbreak of flogging and other night riding violence. It provides for a fine of up to $500 or twelve months in jail.

Head Hurt Starts Probe of Fight

Los Angeles Examiner

Figure in '22 Raid by Hooded Group

Gus W. Price, 64, one-time King Kleagle of the Ku Klux Klan in Los Angeles and California, died Thursday night after being involved in a fight over a minor traffic collision on Roosevelt Highway.

This was revealed by officials yesterday who are investigating his death.

An autopsy showed that Price had head bruises and a brain hemorrhage. Further examination will be to determine whether or not the injuries caused the hemorrhage.

CRASHED TRUCK

No action has been taken as yet against Fay Noel Fry of Santa Paula, driver of the truck with which Price's car collided and with whom Price and his son, Graham, are reported to have fought during the argument over the accident last Wednesday.

Fry told sheriff's deputies that the Prices became violent and tried to attack him with knives, but that he had disarmed them and knocked them out.

Deputies found Price and his son still at the scene and arrested them.

PAIR FINED

In the Malibu justice court, the Prices pleaded guilty. Judge O. Benton Worley fined the younger Price $125 for drunk driving, a misdemeanor, and simple assault.

Gus Price paid a $50 fine for simple assault and intoxication.

Wednesday night, neighbors said, Gus Price complained of head injuries. He was taken to Santa Monica Hospital Thursday afternoon and died about midnight.

KLAN RECORD

Price was long prominent in the Klan.

However in May, 1946, he declared that he had resigned "because I was supposed to get a dollar for every new member, but organizing wasn't successful enough to get me much out of it."

Probe Reported Klan Activity in California

Courier Sat. 12-10-49

OROVILLE, Calif.—District Attorney Raymond A. Leonard of Butte County this week informed the NAACP that his office will make "a thorough investigation" of reports of intimidation of Negroes in this area and is attempting to determine "whether there is any organized Ku Klux Klan In Butte County."

"Let me assure you," wrote Mr. Leonard, "that this office will vigorously prosecute any member of the Klan discovered in Butte County. . . . We are certainly on the lookout for them, as we do not intend to allow this vicious organization to get any foothold."

A request for an investigation was made in a letter to Mr. Leonard by Jack Greenberg, NAACP assistant special counsel, who reported that shots had been fired upon a Negro church in Butte County "by certain unknown parties believed to be members of the Ku Klux Klan."

Mr. Greenberg also called to the District Attorney's attention a newspaper picture of the home of Fire Chief William H. Clifton of El Medio, showing the letters KKK" scrawled on the window."

— "FORTIETH IN '50" —

Crosses Flame In Baltimore, Washington, D.C.

9-17-49

WASHINGTON, D. C.—(NNPA)—A crude cross, covered with oil-soaked rag, burned briefly in the 1700 block of M street, northeast, early last Friday morning, just 12 hours after a colored family moved into an all-white block of modest row [illegible]

Ralph Sneed, 3[illegible] and his wife, Vinita, 25, the new occupants of 1709 M street, northwest, told police they were awakened about 1 a. m., by breaking glass as rocks were hurled through the living room window. They found neighbors in their front yard extinguishing the flaming cross with hoses.

Police said they believe the cross was set up and burned by teen-age white boys. Several youths were [illegible] the Sneed home late Thursday night, neighbors told police.

ALL-NIGHT POLICE PATROL

An all-night police patrol was detailed in the area. Police were instructed to keep a protective eye on the Sneed home for the next few nights to prevent further trouble.

Sneed, a mail clerk in the Navy's Bureau of Aeronautics, said he is buying the home from a private indivdual. The Sneeds lived only a few blocks away at 2012 Maryland avenue, northeast before moving ton their new home.

Minority Group Getting Fed Up

Afro-American 9-24-49

White Bigots' Acts Grist for Communists

CROSS BURNING HIT

Police Apathy Toward Attacks on Race Irks

WASHINGTON

Are the actions of white bigots in the nation's capital softening up the minority group for Communist infiltration?

Last week, Ralph Sneed, who moved into a home in the 1700 block of M St., S.E., was awakened from his slumber by the glow of flames from a four-foot blazing cross and the shattering of his window panes.

Police shrugged the attack off as the work of juvenile pranksters.

Explanation Patently False

Citizens are wondering about this police explanation. Since when, they challenge, are youngsters sufficiently schooled in Ku Klux Klan tactics to obtain the knowledge of how to construct crude crosses wrapped with burlap sacks soaked in oil?

The vandals' attack on the home of Sneed, who is residing in what was previously an all-white community, is similar to the periodic assaults which have been made on the home of Odis Blasingame since April 1.

In the Blasingame case, police officials say that they have put forth every effort to defend his home against the ravages of his discontented neighbors.

They declare that they have been unsuccessful in ferreting out the parties guilty of the attacks on the Blasingame home.

Swimming Incidents Cited

The furore over the swimming pools this summer, which found young hoodlums successful in their attempt to close down the swimming pools rather than allow them to operate on an interracial basis is another indication of how the intolerant minority controls the affairs of the District.

Let's look at the handicaps our policemen and our firemen have to endure under the District's Civil Service promotional system!

Although, it is generally agreed that colored policemen and firemen have better educational backgrounds than the whites, few, if any, receive promotions.

Score High in Examinations

Is it because they are not intelligent? you ask. No! Is the answer.

Our policemen and firemen turn in excellent grades on the written examinations. However, under the existing Civil Service regulations for District promotions, efficiency ratings account for 60% of the final eligibility marks.

And so, a pattern is definitely noted. If a colored policeman, for example, has a tendency to be bright, his superiors mark down his efficiency mark.

If on the other hand, a policeman is not considered particularly brilliant, he receives a fairly good efficiency mark.

Captain Overruled

Recently, a local fireman who had a high mark on the written portion of the fire department's promotional examination, was marked down in efficiency, even though the captain of his company, who knew his work best, rated him excellent.

His appeal before a stacked Appeals Board won for him a half a point raise in efficiency.

Last week, representatives from 25 civic organizations met to devise a way to force the District Commissioners to observe the "missing civil rights clause" in the District code.

Rights Clause "Investigated"

Since May 16, the Commissioners have placed the "investigation" of the legality of the "missing civil rights clause" into the hands of the Corporation Counsel's office. As yet, the matter is still being "investigated."

Recently, the NAACP sponsored a suit filed against our reactionary Recreation Board in behalf of parents of seven children in the Trini-

3 1949

Klu Klux Klan (D.C.)

Fiery Crossed Burned in Capital of Nation

WASHINGTON (NNPA) — A Marine Corps veteran of World War II, who saw duty at Iwo Jima, declared Friday that the hoodlums who burned a fiery cross in his yard early that morning wouldn't scare him and his wife out of their newly purchased home.

Sat. 9-17-49

"We intend to stay here," the veteran stated, "despite hell and high water; but I hope nothing like this happens again."

Ralph Sneed, 30, a mail clerk, and his wife, Vinita, 25, were the new occupants of 1709 M St., N.E., who told police they were awakened about 1 a.m., 12 hours after moving into the house, by the sound of breaking glass as rocks were hurled through the living room window. They found neighbors in their front yard extinguishing the flaming cross with water hoses.

Cross Burned in Maryland

Police investigation of a cross burning near the colored high school in Towson, Md., apparently was stalled last Friday, 17 hours hours after the incident. Chief Oscar Grimes of the county police said the investigation was continuing, but no members of his force had been detailed to find the culprits.

After the blaze was put out, Sergeant McDonald said he made a search of the area, but found no evidence other than the charred cross. He denied a report that two men had been seen leaving the vicinity.

Cross Burned in Alabama

About 15 members of the Ku Klux Klan last Wednesday night burned a 20-foot cross on a hilltop a few hundred yards north of the city limits of Birmingham, just off United States Highway 31. Two effigies were strung from the arms of the wooden cross.

The hooded and robed, but unmasked Klansmen were reported to be members of the Robert E. Lee Klavern No. 1 of Birmingham. Four or five women were present at the ceremony, which Exalted Cyclops E. Campbell addressed.

One of the dummies was tagged "Welcome Paul Robeson," while the other was unidentified. Later Campbell said the unidentified effigy represented "Communist elements which are trying to sneak into the South."

Law to Unmask Klan, Prevent Cross Burning Passed by Miami Commission

Afro-American

MIAMI — The Ku Klux Klan was virtually banned from operating here last week when the City Commission passed unanimously an emergency ordinance, prohibiting the wearing of masks or anything designed to conceal identity, at meetings of the Klan or other hooded groups, and the burning of crosses.

By making the ordinance an emergency measure it becomes operative as soon as it is published. The measure provides for a fine up to $500, and jail penalties up to 60 days or both.

Exemptions Listed

It also prohibits entrance on the premises of any other person while wearing a mask;

Exempted are persons wearing holiday costumes during a holiday period, also children under 17 masking "in the spirit of levity," and wearing of a mask in a circus or a play.

Answer to Intimidation

The ordinance was introduced by Commissioner H. Leslie Quigg, three days after three crosses were burned at Miami Shores Community Church, white, where a colored minister was invited to speak during Brotherhood Week.

The invitation was withdrawn following this demonstration and a threat by influential members of the church to withhold their financial support if the colored minister were permitted to fill the engagement.

Tennessee Indictment

Two days after Miami moved to curb the Klan, the Hamilton county grand jury in Chattanooga, Tenn., set the stage for the first criminal test of that State's 80-year-old anti-Klan law by returning a nine-point indictment against a grocer for violations of it.

The Tennessee law, enacted in 1869, has been upheld by the State Supreme Court.

C. R. Terry, 48, a grocery operator, was indicted on three felony counts and six counts for misdemeanors. His arrest stemmed from a raid by some 75 masked men at a night club last Dec. 11.

Klan Spreads Terror

One of the counts said the grocer "did unlawfully travel through the country masked and disguised to the disturbance of the peace and to the alarm of citizens."

The Klan has been active in Tennessee for several months, especially in the Chattanooga area, parading in streets of near-by towns and burning crosses in hillsides.

Sat. 3-26-49

Churches Invaded

Baltimore Maryland

Tennessee Grand Jury Indicts Grocer, 48, in 1st Major Test of 80-Year-Old Statute

Sat. 3-26-49

Robed and masked men recently invaded two Baptist churches during religious services and left donations of money, branded as "bribes" by church leaders.

In one instance, their appearance caused such intimidation and fear among the worshippers that an organist fainted.

Other reports of rising Klan activities in Georgia and Alabama were also made last week.

A 29-year-old white steelworker, Bill Howard, father of three children, revealed reluctantly in Chattanooga that he was brutally lashed near his home in Lytle, Ga., by robed and masked men.

The steelworker said the masked men accused him of abusing his mother, but his wife asserted "that's not so." He was flogged by 12 or 15 men the night of Feb. 15.

He said he did not report it to the sheriff of Walker County, Ga., because: "I'm scared. I want some protection, but what chance has a man got?"

Boy Defies Intimidation

In Talladega, Ala., a 12-year-old white boy told Sheriff Earl Howell he defied a group of hooded men Saturday night who set fire to a cross in front of his father's home.

Mother Also Threatened

Owen Drake, son of Dick Drake of Mumford, a community near Talladega, said he kicked down the burning cross and doused it in water [illegible].

Mrs. Daisy [illegible] Lewis, a mother of three children, also of Mumford, Ala., told Sheriff Howell a band of robed men pulled up in front of her home—the same night the Drake home was invaded—and burned a cross in her front yard.

Sat. 3-26-49

Klan Obeys Mask Law In Florida Parade

Chicago Defender

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — Sixty carloads of robed klansmen passed through this city last Friday night, but not a single one of them wore a mask. The bed-sheet knights paraded with bands and red light flares, but every car had its license plates clearly visible, and every vacuous face was open to view.

Sat. 6-25-49

The reason for this unprecedented behavior was the warning by Governor Warren that the state law forbidding masked adults from appearing in public would be rigidly enforced.

Fla. Governor Battles Klan

Pittsburg Courier

Pittsburg Pa

By JOHN A. DIAZ

(The Courier's Florida Bureau)

TALLAHASSEE—In a bitter outburst against "the hooded hoodlums and jerks who paraded the streets of Tallahassee" (Thursday night), Governor Fuller Warren last week announced that he will ask the Florida Legislature to outlaw the Ku Klux Klan and any other terrorist organization in the commonwealth.

Sat. 3-5-49

The Chief Executive's outburst was the result of a caravan of forty-three automobiles containing klansmen from nearby Georgia and Florida, who staged a parade through the streets of the capital city. The lead car as usual carried a lighted cross. Three highway patrol cars and a police colonel flanked the line of march.

The parade was not without incident, however. Although there is no Florida law prohibiting such parades, County Sheriff Frank Stoutamire and a State highway patrolman arrested drivers of six of the cars which failed to display proper license identification.

Four of the arrested drivers were from Georgia and the other two were Floridians. Tallahassee is only twenty-one miles from the Georgia border which is northward, and the Klan demonstration was the first such public mass display of bigotry in the State Capital in twenty years.

Governor Warren said that the Ku Klux Klan apparently had set out to terrorize minority groups in Florida as they have in a nearby State (meaning Georgia) which contributed a large number of the klansmen who visited Tallahassee Thursday evening.

CALLED "HOODLUMS, JERKS"

Sat. 3-5-49

Said the Governor: "The hooded hoodlums and jerks who paraded the streets of Tallahassee made a disgusting and alarming spectacle. No Florida law now prevents such a mob of potential murderers from parading in Florida, but I plan to ask the 1949 Legislature to outlaw the Klan and other such terrorist organizations. Such un-American mobs will not be allowed to terrorize minority groups in this State."

Known to be anti-Ku Klux Klan in 1946, the present Governor made a statement calling for the "complete suppression of these skulking bigots who cowardly conceal their identity beneath bedsheets."

The men arrested by Sheriff Stoutamire were fingerprinted and released on $50 bonds. He identified them as E. W. Irvine and Frank M. Roberts, Tallahassee; Oscar Ellis and James L. Taramore of Valdosta, Ga.; T. S. Trawick of Iron City, Ga., and Dennis W. Williams of Donnelsonville, Ga.

Tallahassee Bars Masks On Street

Chicago Defender

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — Klanfans cannot mask in this city as the result of a city ordinance passed last week.

Chicago Ill

While the ordinance does not name the Klanrat organization, it was understood to be aimed directly at the sheeted order and forbids any person to wear a mask on city property. Children wearing masquerade costumes are exempted.

Sat. 4-2-49

Warren Asks Aide Who Wears Hood To Resign

Montgomery Advertiser

TALLAHASSEE, FLA., Feb. 3. (AP)—Gov. Fuller Warren today asked one of his honorary lieutenant colonels to resign because he is a leader in the Florida Ku Klux Klan.

Fri. 2-4-49

The colonel, W. M. Brough, of Wildwood, immediately said he will send his commission to the governor because "it is the honorable thing to do."

Brough said he is grand titan and second command of the state organization which Warren labeled as "covered cowards" and said he will seek to outlaw by legislative action.

Fri. 2-4-49

Governor Warren wrote to "Dear Friend Brough" that "my feelings about the Klan are such that I do not want one of its members on my staff.

"Hooded Jerks"

"I hope this will not impair our friendship of many years. I not only have a warm personal regard for you but I sincerely appreciate the loyal support you have given me in my political campaigns.

"I stand ready to serve you in any proper way."

The governor lambasted Klansmen as "hooded jerks" last week after a group of them had paraded past the Florida State Capitol.

Then The Tampa Tribune disclosed that Brough, who was master of ceremonies at a Klan rally in Wildwood last Nov. 1, was on the list of honorary colonels Warren named to his staff late in December.

Confirms Affiliation

Brough confirmed his affiliation with the Klan to a Tampa Times reporter today before the governor wrote to him asking for return of his colonel's commission if the report were true.

Fri. 2-4-49

Brough said he has "no inclination to fear" that the Klan will be banned in Florida.

The railway pipefitter said he had been a political supporter of Warren since 1929, helped him in his campaigns for governor in 1940 and 1948, and wore the armband of a lieutenant colonel at the inauguration a month ago.

However, he said, he never had discussed his Klan affiliation with Warren.

Anti-Mask Bill

TARPON SPRINGS, Fla.—City Commissioners here passed a resolution prohibiting the wearing of masks in an attempt to discourage Klan activity. A $1,000 fine and 90-day jail sentence will be imposed on violators.

Florida City Outlaws Maskwearing

TARPON SPRINGS, Fla. — Aug. 4 — (INS) — Mask-wearers and Cross Burnings are taboo in Tarpon Springs today. The City Commission adopted an Ordinance Thursday banning the Klan regalia and flaming crosses.

Reincarnation Of 'Original Klan' Claimed

JACKSONVILLE, Fla.—(AP)—A Ku Klux Klan outfit came up yesterday under the leadership of a permanent emperor bulwarked by an imperial wizard and a national adjutant.

Bill Hendrix, of Tallahassee, Fla., an electrician, announced that he was tabbed adjutant at a secret konvocation.

Atlanta, Ga.

All the other officers, he said, are anonymous, the emperor taking the title of Samuel II and the wizard a seven-digit number—4-006800.

Constitution

Hendrix called the organization Southern Knights of the Ku Klux Klan and said it was a reincarnation of the "original invisible empire."

Mon. 8-29-49

He claimed 302 chapters and 650,000 members in 12 Southern States plus New Jersey and New York. He said the order is going to fight "fantastic taxation . . . regimentation" and a threat of a "Communist State."

Florida Town Bans Masks

Constitution

TARPON SPRINGS, Fla.—(AP) An ordinance aimed at the Ku Klux Klan was in effect today.

Tu. 8-5-49

The ordinance adopted by the City Commission bans wearing of masks and burning of crosses on public or private property.

FLORIDA TOWN GETS ANTI-MASK BILL

Tarpon Springs, Fla. City Commissioners here passed a resolution prohibiting the wearing of masks in an attempt to discourage Klan activity. A $1,000 fine and 90 day jail sentence will be imposed on violators.

Defender
Chicago, Ill.
August 20, 1949

Klan Groups Reach 'Working Agreement'

Tallahassee, Fla., Dec. 6 (AP)—The Southern Knights of the Ku Klux Klan have entered into a "working agreement" with the Alabama Klan, national adjutant William Hendrix said yesterday.

Hendrix said the agreement was reached at a meeting in Orlando Saturday night when 163 members were initiated into the new Orlando Klavern.

Hendrix predicted all Klans in America soon will be consolidated under one national leader and all working on one program.

The Klan's chief purpose, he said, is to fight communism.

Fla. Board Lays Down Law To KKK

PALM BEACH, Fla.—The Board of County Commissioners laid down the law regarding the proposed Negro beach here.

In a published statement aimed at the disgruntled cross-burners who tried to discourage dedication of the beach for Negro use, the commissioners invited open objectives and the lawsuits that have been threatened.

The statement says in part: "The site was selected because it answers the need . . . manifest for years . . . As is usually the case where a public dedication is made, nearby property owners fancy themselves injured. From these have come objections (which) should be fully aired. These objections fly in the face of inevitable progress. We do not make conditions, we but meet them.

"There have been statements of impending lawsuits . . . If there is to be a lawsuit, let us get on with it. If not, let us fall into step with conscientious recognition of difficult problems, and adjust ourselves to the convenience and security of our communities."

ANSWERING THE KU KLUX KLAN

Florida Tattler

By REV. WM. C. KERNAN

Jacksonville Fla.

Governor Fuller Warren of Florida is determined to smash the KKK. He asked the 1949 legislation to outlaw it and "any other terrorist organization" in Florida.

Sat. 3-19-49

The Klan reckoned without it host when recently its motorcade of 43 cars entered Tallahassee, the State Capitol, and staged a parade through the streets. Some of the Klansmen were from other states and some of the cars they rode did not display proper license tags. Tallahassee's Sheriff considered that driving a car w th covered license plates was a violation of the law and promptly rounded up 6 of the automobiles He later explained, "I just thought that if they were going to take over, they ought to do it according to law.

Sat. 3-19-49

Governor Warren was even more direct. He called the Klansmen "hooded hoodlums." He said that their parade in Tallahassee was a "disgusting and alarming spectacle." Then came this blast, "Those covered cowards who call themselves Klansman quite obviously have set out to terrorize minority groups in Florida as they have in a nearby state.

The Governor means business as everyone learned when he asked one of his honorary lieutenant colonels, who admits he is a member of tho Klan to resign.

Judging by the wide support which Governor Warren is receiving the Klan's attempt at terrorism in Florida is going to a swift and decisive end. The press is for him, as are the American Legion, the Miami Post of Jewish War Veterans, and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored people. The City Council of Miami Beach commended the Governor for his stand and a statewide citizens group is being formed in support of his action against the Klan.

That the people of Florida are disgurted with the Klan's tactics of terrorism was seen only as recently as February 16 when the Miami City Commission unanimonsly passed an ordinance, aimed at the Klan, which prohibits cross burnings aad the wearing of hoods or masks "except traditional holiday marks." The passage of the ordinance followed quickly on the heels of three cross burnings at Miami Shores where a Negro minister had been invited to address a White congregation in observance of Brotherhood Week.

Sat. 3-19-49

The action of theMiami City Commission is significant because, although Tallahassee and several Georgia communities now have ordiances outlawing the wearing of hoods and masks Miami is the only city in the country which, so far as present information would seem to show, has prohibited the burning of crosses. Violation of the ordinance is punishable by a fine of $500 or by imprisonment or both.

It is time that lawfully constituted authorities took action against arganizations like the Klan which with their anti-Chatolic, anti-Jewish, and anti-Negro bias, are un-Ame ican and hostile to our country's firmly established principals. Florida's loyal citizens deserve the congratulation of the nation—and others ought to follow their example by acting in their communities to overcome the influence of subversive organizations which exist only to destroy our free society.

Sat. 3-19-49

Answering The Ku Klux Klan

By REV. WILLIAM C. KERNAN
EDITOR, THE COMMON DEFENSE

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3-11-49

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Carolina Revokes Charter of KKK

RALEIGH, N.C. (NNPA)—The Knights of the Ku Klux Klan—a Georgia corporation—is no longer chartered to do business in North Carolina.

Baltimore, Md.

The North Carolina State Department of Revenue reported last Thursday it had suspended the charter of the Klan, along with those of several hundred other inactive foreign corporations, because of the failure to make certain reports.

Sat. 7-2-49

J. C. Bethune, director of the Revenue Department's assessments division, said he had written Klan offices in Atlanta last January asking for certain information.

Receiving no reply, he said, he wrote again in February, advising that the charter in North Carolina would be revoked.

HORNS OF GREEN DRAGON:

New Klan Order Rears Its Head in Florida

The Afro American, Baltimore, Md.

MIAMI, Fla. — Despite Governor Fuller Warren's denouncement of the Ku Klux Klan in Florida, a new Klan outfit has cropped up and has managed to get an amendment to a bill which gives hooded activities a measure of respect.

The setting up of the new Klan has been revealed by the Miami Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, of which [illegible] J. Balkin is State Director.

Sat. 5-28-49

Balkin said the order applied for a charter March 29, 1949 with R. A. Gray, secretary of State. Under the name of the Original Southern Klans, Inc., it asked permission to "operate as a fraternal and patriotic secret order, to be known as the Ku Klux Klan."

May Wear Hoods

Bill Hendrix who was designated State agent for the Klan, appeared before Florida Senate and successfully argued for permission to wear hoods at Klan ritual burials.

This amendment has the effect of granting respectability to the Klan and recognizing it as a legitmate organization, Balkin said.

Attorney General Tom Clark already has branded the organization as subversive.

Sat. 5-28-49

An original charter was granted to the group in Columbus, Ga., last June, Balkin declared. He added that its chief aim is listed as pecuniary gain and profit to the shareholders." It won court permission there to gather and disseminate information about the Communist Party and to use this information to defeat the goals ot that party.

Attacked as Bolshevik

Organizers of this group [illegible] I. A. Hill, [illegible] E. Tate and T. L. Colwell, all of Columbus. Dr. Samuel Green, grand dragon of the Klan, attacked the group as "bolshevik," until Clark termed both Klans subversive, then he defended it.

Sat. 5-28-49

This new Florida outfit, in a recent publication declared,

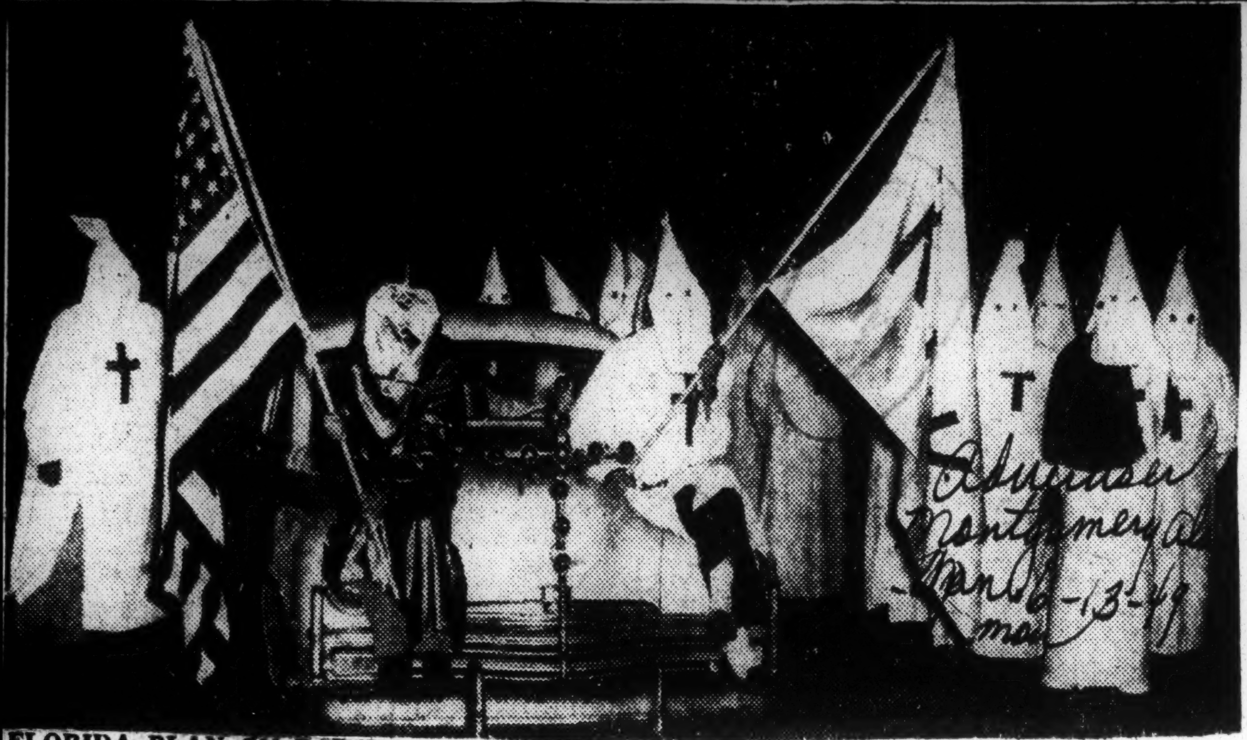
"We are dealing with a harsh raw aspect of race relations, but this order is pledged to destroy the cause which inflames colored citizens, rather than to attempt to cope with the mere results."

Sat. 5-28-49

Spreading Its Propaganda

It added that colored people in the South were likely to become spoiled and become unbearable socially, politically and economically.

During the past few days, the group has been busy leaving handbills under the windshields of cars on parking lots. These call the KKK a 100% Protestant order and an underground drive against forces which would replace democracy with Communism or a dictatorship.



FLORIDA PLAN ON PARADE — Uniformed members of Southern Klan, Inc., gather around lead auto as they paraded Saturday night in Tallahassee, Fla. A higher official of the group holds an American flag while another member displays Klan banner.

Florida Progressives Hit At Anti-Red Oath

TALLAHASSEE, FLA., July 14 —(AP)— The Florida Progressive Party today urged repeal of the law requiring an anti-Communist loyalty oath from all public officials and employes.

John M. Coe, of Pensacola, chairman of the party which supported Henry Wallace for president, asked Gov. Fuller Warren to request the legislature in special session also to ban the Ku Klux Klan.

Second Florida Town Reports Outbreak Of White Terrorism

POLK CITY, FLA., July 21—(AP)—A shooting foray and cross burning has fixed this hinterland village as the newest potential trouble spot in Florida's outbreak of white terrorism against Negroes.

With 300 battle-equipped National Guard troops encamped at Groveland, 20 miles to the north, "protective measures" were taken here to prevent a recurrence of last night's flareup.

Night riders fired 25 shots at random in the Negro quarter and burned a cross in front of a Negro school. No casualties were reported. Deputy Sheriff Paul Jennings said plans had been made to cope with any new outbreak but did not disclose what they were. Polk City is situated in the back hill country on the fringe of the citrus belt.

At Groveland, things were quiet today after a grand jury last night indicted three Negroes for the rape of Mrs. Willie Padgett, 17-year-old bride, last Saturday.

Troops idled beside .50 caliber machine guns and weapon carriers as Groveland's Negro population trickled back into town. They fled when racial violence started last weekend.

Brig. Gen. Mark Lance, state adjutant general, said the Guard will stay a few more days at Groveland and indicated no troops would be sent here.

"We feel our presence has prevented loss of property and perhaps bloodshed," he said after conferring with Sheriff W. V. McCall and other authorities.

"The situation is quiet now and we don't expect trouble, but we thought it better to stay until the tension relaxes completely."

General Lance said he had no knowledge that the Ku Klux Klan was involved in any of the burning or shootings.

An early trial is expected for the three accused Negroes, Charlie Greenlee, Samuel Shepherd and Walter Irvin, all about 20. A fourth Negro is being sought. The FBI has joined the search.

Mrs. Padgett's husband was beaten and robbed by four Negroes who stopped and offered to assist the couple stranded by car trouble on a lonely road.

Fla. Board Lays Down Law To KKK

PALM BEACH, Fla.—The Board of County Commissioners laid down the law regarding the proposed Negro beach here.

In a published statement aimed at the disgruntled cross-burners who tried to discourage dedication of the beach for Negro use, the commissioners invited open objectives and the lawsuits that have been threatened.

The statement says in part: "The site was selected because it answers the need . . . manifest for years . . . As is usually the case where a public dedication is made, nearby property owners fancy themselves injured. From these have come objections (which) should be fully aired. These objections fly in the face of inevitable progress. We do not make conditions, we but meet them.

"There have been statements of impending lawsuits . . . If there is to be a lawsuit, let us get on with it. If not, let us fall into step with conscientious recognition of difficult problems, and adjust ourselves to the convenience and security of our communities."

Fla. Town Gets Anti-Mask Bill

TARPON SPRINGS, Fla.—City Commissioners here passed a resolution prohibiting the wearing of masks in an attempt to discourage Klan activity. A $1,000 fine and 90 day jail sentence will be imposed on violators.

Anti-Mask Law Set in Fla. City

ATLANTIC BEACH, Fla.—(UP)—A new anti-masking ordinance was in effect today, providing a $1,000 fine and 90-day jail term for offenders. The ordinance also prohibits forceful entry while masked and the burning of crosses.

Kluxers 'Training' for New Tactics

By Federated Press

A "state of emergency" has been declared to exist throughout the Invisible Empire of the Southern & Northern Ku Klux Klans, according to an edict of the Imperial Wizard appearing in the current issue of The Klansman, published at Jacksonville, Fla.

The edict calls upon all "native-born, white, Gentile Protestants" to "repair immediately to their nearest Den for a course of instruction and training" and "proceed to organization and action" to "save our form of government from subversive minority groups."

The Wizard, who claims to have been recently elected at a "secret Imperial Klonvokation," is identified only by the number 4-006890.

The Klansman, official organ of the hooded order, does not reveal the name of its publisher and editor, but gives a postoffice box number as the address of the Jacksonville Klavern. Copies have been sent through the mails to city officials, attorneys and others.

Asserting that the Klan is "for labor," **The Klansman** declares that the KKK is not anti-anybody, but is simply "non-Negro, non-Catholic, non-Jew and non-foreign-born."

For the first time in Klan history, "honorary affiliation" kards are being offered to Catholics, Jews, Negroes and foreign-born who, "after investigation," are found to conform to the principles of Ku Kluxery.

These honorary kards will not admit their bearers to meetings but "serve to allay the suspicion . . . that they are disloyal," the publication explains.

The Klansman goes on to invite the Jewish League against Communism, and Catholic Action, to work with the KKK "side by side for America."

While disavowing all hatred of minority groups, The Klansman attacks the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith as a "Jewish gang," brands Cardinal Spellman as "arrogant," asserts that Negroes are intolerable but that "n...s are hard to beat," and concludes that minority groups are being "trained in the techniques of revolution, terrorism and Gestapo methods."

The Klansman also attacks as "Unthinkable" the anti-genocide pact of the United Nations, which would punish anyone conspiring to liquidate a racial or religious group. It is predicted by the Klan sheet that the U. S. Senate will refuse to ratify the pact.

Publication of The Klansman as the official propaganda arm of the KKK represents an abandonment of the more underground media employed since suspension of The Fiery Cross at the beginning of the war.

Brief And Complete

The very nature of the Ku Klux Klan makes it easy to comment upon. It is obviously contrary to everything for which the United States properly stands. It clearly plays on the worst of all human prejudices and blows on the coals of the meanest emotions that ever flame in the human breast. The provocation always is to become enmeshed in prolonged comment. When Klansmen appeared on the streets of Tallahassee recently, Gov. FULLER WARREN of Florida made his observation brief and complete. He said that the "hooded hoodlums and sheeted jerks" who paraded the streets of Tallahassee last night made a disgusting and alarming spectacle. "Hooded hoodlums and sheeted jerks" really does the job.

WARREN ONCE IN KLAN

But Florida Governor Now Is 'Out To Fight It'

TALLAHASSEE, Fla., March 15. —(UP)—Gov. Fuller Warren of Florida revealed Tuesday night that he had joined the Ku Klux Klan "many years ago" but now was doing all in his power to stop its "lawless mob."

A statement by Warren said he had became a member as a favor to a friend. He said he attended only "two or three meetings" and that he "never wore a hood . . . Never marched in one of the Klan's cowardly parades . . . Never took part in any of the brandings, beatings, whippings, torturings or lynchings."

Florida Governor A Klan Ex-Member

Says He's Now Striving to Stop 'Lawless Mob'

TALLAHASSEE, Fla., March 15 (UP).—Governor Fuller Warren, of Florida, revealed tonight that he joined the Ku-Klux Klan "many years ago," but he said he is now doing all in his power to stop its "lawless mob."

A statement by Mr. Warren issued at the Governor's office said he became a member of the organization as a favor to a friend. It did not explain why he was revealing the old association.

He said he attended only "two or three meetings" and that he "never wore a hood . . . never marched in one of the Klan's cowardly parades . . . never took part in any of the Klan's brandings. Beatings, whippings, torturings or lynchings."

The statement said his membership occurred before he had "helped to fight a war to destroy the Nazis—first cousins to Klansmen."

"Now, realizing that should this lawless mob be allowed to grow strong again. no citizen will be really safe," the statement said. "I am determined to do all I can to stop it."

Governor Bids Florida Outlaw Ku-Klux Klan

Acts After 'Hooded Jerks,' Many From Georgia, Hold Parade in Tallahassee

TALLAHASSEE, Fla., Jan. 28 (UP).—Governor Fuller Warren announced today that he will ask the Florida Legislature to outlaw the "hooded jerks" of the Ku-Klux Klan who paraded through the Florida capital last night.

The Klan "obviously has set out to terrorize minority groups in Florida as they have in a near-by state," Governor Warren said in an apparent reference to Georgia, which had a large delegation in the parade.

A motorcade of hooded Klansmen in forty-three cars bearing Florida, Georgia and Alabama license plates rode through Tallahassee to celebrate the founding of a new Florida klavern.

It was escorted through the city by capital police. Sheriff Frank Stoutamire of Leon County and his deputies arrested six men at the city's outskirts on charges of covering their auto license tags or having expired 1948 plates. Four of them were Georgians.

"The hooded hoodlums and jerks who paraded the streets of Tallahassee last night made a disgusting and alarming spectacle," Governor Warren said. "Those covered cowards who call themselves Klansmen quite obviously have set out to terrorize minority groups in Florida as they have in a near-by state."

Governor Warren said he would ask the 1949 Legislature to "outlaw the Klan and other such terrorist organizations" since the state now has no law "preventing such a mob of potential murderers from parading in Florida."

In Atlanta Grand Dragon Samuel Green denied that his association of Georgia Klans was involved in the episode. He blamed the demonstration on the Southern Klan, an "illegal offshoot" of his organization.

The six men arrested and released in $50 bond were Oscar Ellis and James L. Paramore, of Valdosta, Ga.; T. W. Trawick, Iron City, Ga.; Dennis W. Williams, Donnelsonville, Ga., and E. W. Irvine and Frank May Roberts, of Tallahassee.

GOVERNOR DROPS KLAN LEADER—Florida's Governor Fuller Warren has asked W. H. Brough (right), one of his honorary lieutenant colonels, to resign because he is a leader of the Ku Klux Klan in Florida. This picture was made as Brough addressed a Klan rally at Wildwood last November. Standing at left is W. E. Reincher, of Orlando. Brough said he is Grand Titan and second in command of the Klan in Florida. (AP Wirephoto).

Klan Ban Asked By Florida Press

GAINESVILLE, Fla., March 20 — (AP) — Gov. Fuller Warren's proposal to outlaw the Ku Klux Klan in Florida was endorsed here today by the Florida Press Association.

The group made up mainly of weekly newspaper owners and editors, adopted a resolution asking the legislature to ban the hooded organization which it said "violates the principles of American government by taking the law into its own hands."

The Klan was condemned for "causing minority groups to feed on fear."

The weekly editors took the action at the closing session of their Spring meeting here.

Members of the Associated Press Association of Florida, meeting separately, voted to have a committee investigate the feasibility and need for employment of a man to devote full time to coverage of citrus affairs.

Bill Seeks To Bar Klansmen In Masks

TALLAHASSEE, (FLA.), April 20 — (AP) — Public appearances of the Ku Klux Klan in masks would be prohibited under a bill introduced in the Florida Senate today.

The measure would make it unlawful for any "hooded or masked person, or association or group of hooded or masked persons" to be present on any street, highway, park or any public property.

However, the proposal specifically exempts the use of masks or masquerade costumes by children and others at Hallowe'en or other carnival celebrations.

Cross Burnings Defy Christian Race Fellowship

MIAMI, Fla. — The burning of crosses in front of the Miami Shores Community Church Saturday night led to the withdrawal Monday of an invitation to a Negro minister to address the congregation and steps being taken to vote on whether the pastor of the church should be retained.

The Rev. Edward Graham, pastor of the Mount Zion Baptist Church, was asked by the Miami Shores minister, the Rev. Donald Douds, to speak Sunday night on the church's Brotherhood Week program.

APPROVE INVITATION

The church board tentatively approved the invitation to the minister Thursday and the question was brought before the 700-member congregation but the burning of the crosses resulted in the talk being cancelled and a meeting of the members of the church being scheduled for Feb. 22 to vote on retaining the Rev. Mr. Douds.

According to L. F. Ward, chairman of the board of trustees of the interdominational church, "The only issue confronting the Miami Shores Community Church is whether it can afford to have a minister who caused a serious division in its membership."

The Rev. Mr. Graham declined to comment on the withdrawal of the invitation.

He denied that there was a serious division in the congregation of the church.

PROPOSED KLAN BAN MAY CAUSE TURMOIL

(The Associated Press)

Tallahassee, Fla., March 6— Gov. Fuller Warren's proposal to outlaw the Ku Klux Klan in Florida may touch off turmoil in the state Legislature.

Replies to a questionnaire circulated among legislators indicate pretty evenly divided sentiment on the Klan. Some seem ready to fight the organization tooth and nail; others appear equally prepared to defend it.

Not all lawmakers replied to the poll. Some of those who did left blank the space provided to answer the question: "Would you vote to outlaw the Ku Klux Klan?" Others filled the space with "maybe" or "I don't know."

However, 18 legislators said they definitely would vote for an anti-Klan bill. Twelve said equally definitely that they would not. There are influential members on both sides.

Klanrats Getting 'Bums Rush' All Over Dixie; Miami Warns 'No Sheet'

Chicago Defender

MIAMI—The efforts of a handful of stumble-bums and cheap racketeers to revive the hooded and sheeted terror of the klanrats as an organization took an awful beating in several sections of Dixie last week.

From the Cumberland Mountains in Tennessee to the Florida beaches the awakening South met the efforts of "Grand Dragon" Green and his henchmen to line up new suckers with a loud and raucous Bronx cheer—and the threat of jail.

The city of Miami last week followed the lead of the state capital, Tallahassee, and passed a city ordinance forbidding public appearances in sheets and hoods, and the burning of fiery crosses. The law was passed unanimously, though two of the city council members were reputed to have been former klanrats. One of these, Leslie Quigg, introduced the ordinance, stating that "the times have changed."

In Orlando, Florida, the local branch of the NAACP, composed of both white and Negro members, passed a resolution praising Governor Fuller Warren for his courageous and out-spoken opposition to a revival of the klanrat organization which resulted in the passage of the Tallahassee ordinance banning the klanrats from public appearances.

Both Florida ordinances provide for fines up to $500 and jail sentences up to 60 days or both.

The Florida state legislature is reported to be considering a state law outlawing klanrat activities.

Miami Church to Keep Its Christian Pastor

Afro American — Baltimore Maryland

MIAMI — Bigotry took another bad beating here last week. Sat-3-12-49

This one came on Tuesday, when the congregation of the exclusive Miami Shores Community Church voted 227 to 89 to retain the Rev. Donald Douds as pastor.

The Rev. Mr. Douds made news recently when he invited the Rev. Edward Graham, pastor of Mount Zion Baptist Church, to speak at Brotherhood Week services at the lily-white church.

The invitation had been approved by the board of trustees, 28-9, but unchristian forces in the church rebelled on learning of the action.

First, crosses were burned in front of the church and the Rev. Mr. Graham's home. Then the Rev. Mr. Douds received numerous threats. As a result, the Brotherhood Week talk was canceled.

Hooded Klan Illegal Now

Also as a result, however, the Miami City Commission passed a law prohibiting the burning of crosses and the wearing of masks and hoods, the regalia of the Ku Klux Klan. That law was practically the same as outlawing the Klan in Miami.

The attempt to dismiss the Rev Mr. Douds as pastor was the work of a small group of wealthy persons who threatened to withdraw their support if a colored minister was allowed to speak from the pulpit.

The ballotting on the motion to dismiss him, as of June 2, was secret.

By agreement of both supporters and opponents of the pastor, there was no debate on the issue. All the congregation got was a form on which they could check whether they wished to continue or discontinue their liberal pastor's services.

"Basic Principle at Stake"

Following the overwhelming vote of confidence, the pastor expressed his belief that the matter was settled.

"I am very happy," he said, "because a basic Christian principle of human brotherhood, was at stake." Sat-3-12-49

He admitted regret that there were still some dissatisfied persons, but said that he did not feel that the future unity of the church would be affected.

Cross of Hate Burned After Brotherhood Week Broadcast

Afro-American — Baltimore Maryland

CORAL GABLES, Fla.—A cross of hate was burned here on Wednesday night, following the staging of an interracial Brotherhood Week forum, last Saturday, over Radio Station WBAY. The fiery symbol of bigotry was burned before the apartment house in which Joseph Torrablas, 16, student director of the forum, lives.

Torrablas, president of the Ponce de Leon High School's psychology club, told police that he had received several anonymous telephone calls from "cranks," after the program, including one from "what sounded like a colored girl."

The Brotherhood Week forum had as its moderator the Rev. Joe Barth of First Unitarian Church. Speakers in addition to him and Torrablas included Marsha Cohen, 16, representing the Jewish faith; Kay Grover, 16, Roman Catholic; and Enid Curtis, 16, representing colored citizens. Sat-3-19-49

Conference of Christians And Jews Explains Position

Journal & Guide — Norfolk Virginia

NEW YORK—(NNPA) — The National Conference of Christians and Jews climbed back off the limb which it went out on last week in stating that the white minister who had invited a colored pastor to speak at its church was "on a limb."

The conference's offices here made available to the NNPA News Service a letter from its Miami, Fla. office which showed that the local Florida office had been very much concerned over the incident. In reply to the New York office's query as to whether or not the local office had taken in action in the incident, the Florida office wrote:

"Yes we had a part in this incident. The papers carried the story as a part of Brotherhood Week programs. We had nothing to do with setting up the program, but I filled the pulpit last Sunday, Feb. 13, in place of the Negro minister.

"We then took advantage of the incident to get the City Commission to pass an ordinance prohibiting the burning of crosses and the wearing of masks. Legally the KKK is dead in Miami. We are also using the incident to mobilize statewide sentiment back of Governor Warren in his fight against the KKK and other similar organizations. This will be presented to the legislature on April 5. We have already done a good deal of work on this.

"We are being supported by the PTA, the American Legion, the Federation of Women's Clubs, the Amvets and other organizations. The radio stations and all daily and weekly newspapers in Florida are giving assistance."

The letter was signed by A. W. Gottschall, director of the Florida region for the National Conference of Christians and Jews.

When queried about the incident last the New York office had said that the pastor who had been threatened with expulsion because he asked the Negro minister to speak from his pulpit, was "out on a limb" because the conference did not advocate the exchange of pastors from one pulpit to another since it was contrary to the faiths of some members.

Southern Klans Meet In Florida

TALLAHASSEE, FLA, June 11 —(U.P.) Southern Klans, Inc., called a meeting of more than 1,000 Ku Klux Klansmen from three states in a wood near here tonight to witness the open house initiation of 250 new Florida members.

Tallahassee police and Florida highway patrolmen prepared to escort a cavalcade of automobiles to and from the meeting and to guard the parade of 100 KKK autos through the capital city.

Police Chief J. E. Montgomery said permission for the parade was granted by the city manager's office. He said the KKK had asked to allow 250 cars to take part in the parade, but he said that was "too many" and cut the number to 100.

The meeting of the Florida, Georgia and Alabama Klansmen was no secret. Reporters and photographers were invited.

A Klan parade here several months ago resulted in passage of the city law banning masks and brought a charge from Florida Gov. Fuller Warren that the KKK was filled with "hooded hoodlums and sheeted jerks."

Florida Klan Irks Governor

Detroit Free Press — Detroit, Mich.

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — (U.P.) — Gov. Fuller Warren announced that he will ask the Florida Legislature to outlaw the "hooded jerks" of the Ku Klux Klan, who paraded through the Florida capital Thursday night.

The Klan "obviously has set out to terrorize minority groups in Florida as they have in a near-by state," Warren said in an apparent reference to Georgia, which had a large delegation in the parade.

The Klansmen were celebrating the founding of a new Florida "klavern."

The Ku Klux Bosses, Burning Crosses

The Union — Cincinnati, Ohio

Jupiter, Fla.—(Atlas)—Besides burning two crosses to scare Negroes from a portion of the beach front allocated to them by the County Commission here, a citizens committee believed to comprise Ku Klux Klansmen, will make efforts to secede from Palm Beach County and join Martin County, according to a statement by Attorney Paul Potter, hired by the Committee.

In less than a week, two crosses were burned on Beach Road which leads to the property allocated for the Negroes to use for a Beach. The West Palm Beach NAACP will confer with Governor Fuller Warren on the case. He has outlawed Klan operations in Florida.

Bans Ku Klux Klan Hood

Florida Tattler — Jacksonville, Fla.

Tallahassee, Fla - (G) - As a result of the Ku Klux Klan parade through the thoroughfares of Florida's capital city, the City Council has passed a law making it an offense to wear a mask or hood in public.

There is already a law in Florida against covering or in any way concealing the license plate of an automobile.

TALLAHASSEE OUTLAWS KLAN

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — ...ee's anti-Ku Klux Klan law became effective Thursday, less than two weeks before Gov. Fuller Warren is expected to ask the legislature to outlaw the hooded order on a state-wide basis.

Like the law already in effect in Miami, Tallahassee's ordinance does not specifically refer to the Klan.

But it prohibits the wearing of hoods by groups gathered in meeting places or parading through the city's streets. The only exceptions are children masquerading on Halloween or other holiday occasions.

KKK (General)

The Ku Klux Klan And The Law

FROM THE ATLANTA DAILY WORLD

A recent release of the Anti-Defamation League of B'Nai Birth examines and separates the various species of the notorious and widely-discussed Ku Klux Klan. Their analysis is lucid and clarifying. Portions of the article will no doubt interest you.

According to this release, there is no such organization as the Ku Klux Klan. There are, however, five different groups operating in the South which make use of the Klan name.

Among these groups are the Original Southern Klans, Inc., of Columbus, Ga., now withering; the Federated Ku Klux Klans, Inc., of Alabama, led by Williams Hugh Morris; the Southern Knights of the Ku Klux Klans of Tallahassee and Jacksonville, Fla.; the Ku Klux Klans of America, recently organized by Rev. Lycurgus Spinks and the powerful Association of Georgia Klans, with headquarters in Atlanta, Ga.

Differences in names, notwithstanding, they all smell alike. They are all violently anti-Negro, anti-Catholic, anti-semitic, anti liberal, pro-fascist and pro-white-supremacist. Violence and a mystic hokus-pokus are their stock in trade.

The Klan is important here because in most counties and states of the South it operates with the implicit sanction of the law. The B'nai league reports that in Georgia, the Klan "-------- serves a definite purpose -------- because of the County Unit System, the rural vote swings the state elections. Klan groups in farm counties can exert tremendous pressure in frightening from the polls Negroes and liberal whites who might be for the opposition candidate."

Strong connections between law officers and the Ku Klux Klans should be the concern of every intelligent Negroes. A few cities have passed anti-klan legislation. Only one state, Alabama.

Now, in the wake of the recent publicity that the Klan has enjoyed, comes the announcement that a former Atlanta police captain, a former director of the Georgia Bureau of Investigation and a recent state office holder, under Herman Talmadge, has been appointed head of the Georgia organization at a reputed salary of $10,000 a year.

At last report a framed certificate-designating the late Samuel Green as a colonel on the staff of the Governor of the State-dangled on the wall of Green's office. Talmadge has neither denied or confirmed the report that Green was on his staff.

So long as the Klan is influential in official circles we are not safe. A logical corrolary to the anti-communist oaths mushrooming over the country would be an anti-klan oath for every public official. The elected city council should enact one as its first official act.

Of every city official seeking your vote, you should get a definite answer as to his stand on this question. Needless to say, you should neither vote for or spuport any candidate who has a Ku Klux Klan record.

The Klan And Christianity

An Editorial in The Roanoke Leader

BACK IN 1928, the Ku Klux Klan disrobed and unmasked itself. Its membership toppled and it withered away. The heat of public opinion was on the Klan because of its frequent and ruthless use of the lash on human beings. Courts were beginning to convict individual Klansmen for their part in atrocities. Not only did the public take all it could stand; conscientious Klan members recoiled in disgust from their organization's excesses and voluntarily withdrew from membership.

History is repeating itself, at least in Alabama. The Klan and other wearers of the mask had their disguise torn from them by a determined State Legislature. No more than eight senators and representatives dissented. (Sen. Hooton and Rep. George favored unmasking.) In this drive against violence by hooded mobs, Gov. Folson has acquitted himself admirably, both by his words and by his actions.

* * *

THE FEDERATED KU KLUX KLAN in Alabama has maintained that it was in no wise connected with recent violence and threats of violence in the Birmingham area. Be that as it may, these incidents were the work of men acting in the familiar Klan pattern. If the hand of the law was to be strengthened in stopping such outrages, all hoods had to come off—Klan hoods with all the rest. Klansmen or their imitators, or both, used poor timing in acting up while the Legislature was in session.

The American Flag and the Cross are two props frequently used by the Ku Klux Klan. Such use of these beloved symbols always struck us as blasphemous. Klansmen loudly proclaim their allegiance to Americanism and to Christianity. Too often this has had its appeal to patriotic Southern people with religious inclinations, and they have allowed themselves to think that the Klan, after all, is a useful organization, dedicated to high principles and good works. Thus deceived, they have overlooked the fact that the "AmerIcanIsm" of the Klan has its I's capitalized—and the Klan "Kristianity" is spelled with a K!

Yes, the Klan stands for "AmerIcanIsm" and constitutional guarantees of liberty—but only for white Gentile Protestants. What could be more American than a man's right to be secure in his own home and his right to trial by jury under due process of law? With increasing boldness, hooded mobs in Alabama have dared to take these rights away from citizens whose color, creed, or conduct does not conform to the mobs' standards. When these rights are denied to citizens, the best in Americanism is undermined. Small wonder that Atty. Gen. Tom Clark has listed the Ku Klux Klan as a "subversive" organization!

* * *

CAN THE KRISTIANITY of the Klan be reconciled with the Christianity of the Bible? The Klan is against sin—to the extent of fighting it with more sin. The Master (whose knights Klansmen profess to be) was against sin, too, when He walked this earth, but He fought sin by understanding and helping the sinner. Read the eighth chapter of John how the scribes and the Pharisees seized a woman taken in sin and brought her before Jesus that they might test Him. Should they stone her, as prescribed in the law of Moses? Look at these men. In broad daylight they came to Jesus with the woman. No disguises to frighten the victim—no hoods to conceal their identity—just robes of self-righteousness covering their souls! Jesus looked behind this concealment when he answered them: "He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her." And then to the woman, after her accusers had slipped away: "Woman, where are those thine accusers? Hath no man condemned thee? Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more."

Jesus Himself was the object of armed mob violence. Under cover of darkness, a multitude of men armed with swords and staves came into the Garden of Gethsemane to seize Him. Read the story in the four Gospels. Jesus stepped forward to face the angry mob. Fresh from His experience of agonizing prayer, He was calm and unafraid. As He spoke, the armed men stepped back, confused and ashamed. Notice particularly this indictment of mob action at night: "Be ye come out as against a thief, with swords and staves? When I was daily with you in the temple, ye stretched forth no hands against me: but this is your hour, and the power of darkness."

Klan-type Kristianity is a Kreed of Kowardice—not to be confused with the courageous Christianity of the New Testament.

* * *

LET NO ONE SHED a tear over what the state of Alabama is doing to the Ku Klux Klan. As one legislator stated, "If Klansmen are primarily interested in promoting Americanism and Christianity, they can do just as good a job of it in God's pure sunlight."

"And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved. But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God." (John 3: 19-21.)

Imperial Emperor Spinks Says Klan Not Against Any Group

WASHINGTON, Sept. 2—(AP)—Lycurgus Spinks, imperial emperor of the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, shouted over the radio tonight that the Klan is a law-abiding organization and not "against" any group of citizens.

Interviewed on Mutual's "Meet the Press" program by Drew Pearson and other Washington correspondents, he declared:

"In 83 years, no Klansman ever endorsed flogging or violating the law."

He denied emphatically that the Klan hated Negroes hated Negroes or any other race. He said the Klan wants Negroes to vote.

Want Fair Deal

"One of the purposes of our organization is to see that all Negroes in the United States get a fair deal," Spinks declared.

But he added that neither Negroes. Jews nor Catholics were eligible for membership. Members must be white, native-born gentiles, he said.

He said that one of his first actions when he became head of the Klan recently was to demand removal of the "mask" except for Klan ceremonies.

Klansmen from six states, Alabama, Mississippi, Tennessee, Arkansas, Missouri and Louisiana, met recently in Montgomery, Ala., and selected Spinks as their imperial emperor.

Spinks, Pearson Argue

Pearson and the 64-year-old Spinks engaged in a heated dispute over whether Spinks is in good standing as a Baptist minister.

Spinks, who now lives at Thomasville, Ala., said he left a church at Blacksburg, S. C., because he wanted to move to another state.

Answering questions from another correspondent, Larry Spivak, Spinks said some doctors, lawyers and scientists were Klan members but he refused to say whether the membership included any congressmen.

"That," he said, "isn't a fair question."

Spinks said that Communism is the country's greatest threat. "There are 238 Communist organizations in this country and

we can't get anybody to outlaw them," he said. "Washington is as full of them as fiddlers in hell."

Spinks said Klansmen "do not hide their faces." Then he added "when it's necessary to duck and go underground we duck. When this New Deal crowd came in 15 years ago we went underground and told them where to go. I don't know whether they went or not."

To Dr. Green

Editor Constitution: I have written the following letter to Dr. Green: As a proud Southerner, I was certainly humiliated and deeply hurt while recently visiting in Chicago to see the South and particularly my home, Atlanta, used as the symbol of un-Americanism, on all days, the Fourth of July. One of the leading newspapers in that city carried on its pictorial page the photo of a mother and father, shroud-covered and faces masked, posed with their young child between them in the same regalia. The caption of this photograph was entitled "American Family—a Mockery."

Certainly you, Dr. Green, of all people, should be aware that prejudices themselves are not inherited, but are acquired, and that the infectious nature of intolerance and hate can well be likened to the rampant, devastating nature of a single cancer cell placed among a multitude of healthy cells, rapidly they all become infected and the once healthy cells become a dead putrifying mass of gangrenous offensiveness.

To us who respect, believe in and love the rights of freedom granted to all under our Constitution, it is sincerely most difficult to understand a man of your caliber and a member of a highly respected profession perpetuating such intolerance. Is it any wonder the North considers itself ahead of the South? It is humiliating to realize the entire South must suffer for the hate and intolerance of a few who are so cowardly they needs must hide behind a mask—

You who are members of the Ku Klux Klan, allow me to ask you, "What is America?" Was not our country founded by men of all races, all creeds—seeking a land where they could be free to worship their God as they chose—freedom to live according to the dictates of their conscience—with liberty and justice for all. Now, tell me if you can, how does the Ku Klux Klan fit into this picture of America?

Atlanta. MURIEL B. COOK.

Southerners Speak—

The Klan—What Guy Thinks

By BEM PRICE
AP Newsfeatures Writer

ATLANTA, Feb. 9—You can't tell a Ku Klux Klansman just by looking at him.

Shorn of his regalia and clad in a business suit, he might be a quiet, gray-haired man, a Legionnaire veteran of World War I, spreading around the waist but still a powerful figure.

Such is Guy V., who left his seven brothers and sisters and started out from his Alabama home 38 years ago "like any other kid, just looking for something I could make the most money out of."

Guy is now a patrolman on the Atlanta police force. After nearly 30 years service, he is earning $175 a month, plus a temporary 40 per cent cost of living bonus.

Do not, however, write Guy off as just a dumb cop. He's been up and down the ladder of promotion. Some of his jobs were highly responsible, requiring considerable organizational ability.

Here is the second of a series of six stories on what individual Southerners think of the civil rights and other problems. The names are fictitious. The people are real.

* * *

ONCE GUY TOOK A federal civil service examination. His score was 96. He admits few Klansmen would make a similar score.

Guy is a man who provides the Klan's backbone. He is a leader and an organizer. If you saw him for the first time you might easily think of him as the regional office manager for a large corporation.

Why does he belong to the Klan?

He said he joined back in 1922 "out of curiosity, I guess." In those days the Klan, preaching "white supremacy," began cloaking the South in an "invisible empire."

After a while, though, Guy said, he lost interest. For 13 years he stayed aloof, returning six years ago. "I felt," he said, "the need for some kind of organization to help take care of the Southern traditions and way of life." These traditions Guy cannot define save that they mean a continuation of racial segregation.

* * *

IN THIS INTERIM the Klan raised the cry of "communism." Maintenance of white supremacy and the fight against communism were fused and the two are inseparable in Guy's mind.

"Southern people," he said, "have never been against the Negro, but always for him. But they do not believe in social equality. You can give no class of people equality. They've got to earn it.

"Then," Guy continued, "there's the growing threat of communism. I think conditions today are largely to blame on the Communists. Pressures are being put on the South by people who do not know the true conditions.

"During World War II, I was doing a lot of work with the FBI. I ran constantly into people who told Negroes they were not being treated right.

"That same thing goes back to 1930—the '30s, the hard times. I was one of a detail working with the solicitor general's office. We picked up tons—and I mean tons—of Communist literature.

"We went into homes and there would be whites—mostly white women, few men—mixing with Negroes. Most of 'em were foreign born.

"I remember back in the first war, I told people over there that if the United States wasn't careful, things would get to be like in Europe. It's happening.

"I figure," Guy went on, "that the Klan is the best organization to straighten out conditions by civic activity. What kind of civic activity? Education. I guess that'll cover it."

* * *

DOES GUY believe in violence by the Klan?

"Only," he said, "when the American government is threatened by force."

Would he consider communism such a force? He would.

But what about the law? "Sometimes," he said, "people are afraid to act because of political pressures."

And if the law still fails to act? "Nothing the Klan could do," said Guy. "We could just bring pressure on the law enforcement agencies."

(The Klan's public record since 1921 contains a long list of actions outside the law—beatings and intimidations. On the part of some officials, no longer connected ostensibly with the Klan, the record includes fraud against the state of Georgia.)

* * *

WOULD A FAIR Employment Practices commission work in the South? "It would be like the prohibition law. Where you've got a majority of sentiment against it, it won't work," Guy said. "That's the kind of thing the Communists want. The Negro is being used to go between the white man and his government in order that the Communists may gain strength and overthrow the government."

Does Guy think Negroes should have the right to vote?"

"Yes, if they are qualified." (In the recent Southern primaries and general election, crosses were burned in various part of the South, including Tuskegee, home of the famed Negro institute.)

But why does the Klan appear in masks before the public?

"Well," said, Guy, "we are against no organization, no religion, but there are some who think we are. If they knew who we were there might be a wholesale firing of all klansmen."

* * *

GUY ALSO BELIEVES Negroes get a "fair break" in the courts. "The judge says 'just another Negro cutting scrape' and lets them off with a lighter sentence than he would a white man," Guy exlained.

(This practice has been condemned by Negro and white leaders, including Editor Ralph McGill of The Atlanta Constitution, as a contributing factor in the high violence rate among Negroes.)

Would he object to working with Negroes? (Atlanta has Negro policemen.) "If they had the right qualifications," Guy answered, "I wouldn't care, but I would object to working under them."

Then Guy added by way of conclusion, "If some Negro leaders would come forward and say they don't believe in social equality, just job equality, I think it would relieve a lot of friction."

What about conditions generally? "They were," Guy replied, "much better a few years back."

Heart Attack Kills K. K. K.'s Fanatical Czar

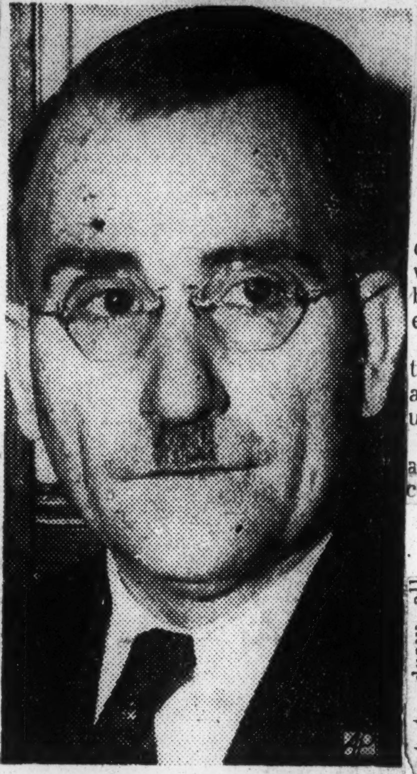
ATLANTA, Aug. 19 — (AP) — A heart attack last night killed Imperial Wizard Samuel Green, the fanatical ruler of the Ku Klux Klan.

There was no doubt, however, that the Klan would carry on though minus the energetic leadership of the thin, 59-year-old physician with the Hitler-like mustache.

A leading Ku Kluxer here said the board of directors probably would meet next week to name a successor to the rasp-voiced little man who breathed a spirit of resurgency into the "invisible empire."

THOUGH Dr. Green had been a Klansman 31 years, his family asked the fact be omitted from his obituary.

At the time of his death, Dr. Green's passion for preaching "white supremacy" had made him a target for aroused newspaper editors and public officials.



"WIZARD SUCCUMBS—Dr. Samuel Green.

They feared the Klan might ride to power again on prejudice, as it did in the decade of the 1920s, and become once more a powerful political factor in the South.

Angrily and bitterly, Dr. Green declared he was being "persecuted."

As a pattern of violence spread over the South in which masked men figured in cross burnings, beatings and threats, Dr. Green relied more and more upon a stock denial.

All these acts he ascribed without fail to "bolshevik" groups over which he had no control.

He promised that any Klansman found guilty of violating the law would be banished. To offset growing public indignation, he ordered the Klan unmasked just 10 days prior to his death.

Simultaneously with the unmasking order he revoked the charters of three klaverns near Chattanooga, Tenn.

HIS ACTION in this case came only after the blue hills of Georgia and Tennessee had seen the beating of 22 individuals, mostly by masked bands.

The blow that hurt Green the most, however, was the declaration by U. S. Atty. Gen. Tom Clark that the Klan was subversive.

Green had always maintained that part of the Klan oath was to uphold the constitution.

To prove his patriotism, Green often pointed to a letter of commendation signed by the late President Roosevelt thanking him for serving on the Selective Service Board.

Prior to the end of World War II little is known of Dr. Green's Klan activities. Though oldtimers in the Klan say he was an official when they joined in 1920, his specific activities are cloaked in obscurity.

Little was heard of him publicly during the Klan's rise to power which was ended under the combined attack of the state and federal government in the early 1930s.

It was not until after the late war that the Klan began to emerge again as a factor in Southern life under the leadership of Dr. Green.

For his activities in reorganizing and revitalizing the Klan, he recently was made "Imperial Wiz-

Klansmen Push Drive For Unity And Figure They'll Be Successful

Georgia's Roper, Alabama's Spinks Leading Movement To Line Up All In South; Internal Struggle For Power Appears To Have Quieted

BY BEM PRICE

ATLANTA, Oct. 22—(AP)—The long anticipated move to unite all Southern Klans is under way.

It's a strong movement, spurred by able organizers. Klansmen are confident the chances that it will succeed within the next year are good.

After the death of Dr. Samuel Green, imperial wizard of the Association of Georgia Klan, many believed the Klan would succumb to an internal struggle for power.

There were, in fact, many reports that the Georgia Klan, largest and strongest of them all, was split over a successor to Dr. Green. But Samuel Roper, former head of the Georgia Bureau of Investigation, soon emerged in Dr. Green's shoes.

It is Roper, assisted by a Baptist minister, Lycurgus Spinks, lately imperial emperor of the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, who is the leader of the movement to draw all Southern Klans into one camp as the Associated Klans of America.

* * *

More Than One Klan

PEOPLE WHO LIVE outside the South are apt to forget there is more than one Klan in the South. This has been so since the post World War I Klan was broken up the 1930s.

Sometimes the Klan situation is more than slightly confusing but here, insofar as is known, is the present situation:

The Associated Klans of America was formed by uniting Roper's Georgia organization and the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan formed by Spinks at Montgomery, Ala., last Summer.

At the time he brought the Knights into alliance with the Georgia group, Spinks claimed he had a membership of 265,000.

In any case, Wizard Roper maintains that the present membership of the combined organization is "in the hundreds of thousands."

* * *

Florida Group

THEN THERE IS the Southern Knights of the Ku Klux Klan with headquarters at Tallahassee, Fla., whose spokesman is Bill Hendrix.

Hendrix describes himself as the "national adjutant" and claims members in 11 Southern states. He says he is subordinate to two anonymous men identified only as "Im-

perial Emperor Samuel II" and "Imperial Wizard 4-006800."

A third group is the Federated Ku Klux Klans, Inc., with headquarters in Birmingham, Ala., and headed by William Hugh Morris, a contractor.

Morris recently went to jail for 67 days until he produced a list of Klan members as part of an investigation into floggings by masked men in and around Birmingham. He claims a membership of 30,000.

The fourth—and the one about which least is known—is that of the original Southern Klans, Inc.

This Klan came into being at Columbus, Ga., and seemed to be composed of two offshoots, the Columbus and Manchester Klaverns, of the Association of Georgia Klans.

Where Did It Go?

THE SPOKESMAN FOR THIS group for a time was a young ex-soldier, Alton Pate. After a brief flurry of excitement over its formation, the Klan closed its offices and apparently disappeared.

There is some suspicion that the original Southern Klans, or part of it, may have joined with the Florida group.

Indeed, it was later established that the Klansmen who paraded through Tallahassee to the annoyance of Gov. Fuller Warren were from Georgia and were members of the original Southern Klans.

In recent months, Hendrix has made declarations which involve towns in the territory once claimed by the Georgia group as citadels. It may be that the two Klans are one and the same under a different name, with a new headquarters and a new spokesman.

Since Roper and Spinks joined forces there has been one public indication the two may be raiding the Federated Klans of Morris.

Just a few days before Roper and Spinks made their announcement, the Rev. Alvin Horn announced at Talladega, Ala., Sept. 22, that four klaverns had seceded from Morris' Alabama group.

* * *

Merger Talked

SUBSEQUENTLY WHEN Spinks and Roper told of the new organization at Knoxville, Tenn., they claimed half of Morris' membership had deserted to join them. This Morris denied vigorously.

Just before Green's death there were reports that he and Morris were dickering for a merger. A few days after the imperial wizard's office was left vacant, Morris made statements which sounded as if he might be glad to take over the job.

What happened to cool the Georgia group to the idea, or Morris for that matter, is a Klan secret.

For the moment Hendrix, Morris and Pate are, relatively speaking, in the background while Roper and Spinks are in the forefront as the two most likely to be the Klan's future leaders in unity.

Wizard Roper said in an interview that the 65-year-old Spinks, onetime candidate for governor of Mississippi, was spending most of his time organizing.

* * *

'Trend To Unity'

ROPER CLAIMS there "is a definite trend toward unity" and "naturally we are doing as much as possible."

Roper is almost the exact opposite of Spinks. The latter, wearing shoulder length white hair, is a professional lecturer.

Roper is a quiet, poker-faced man who speaks rarely unless spoken to. When he does he gets to the point and lets it go at that. About the only gesture he ever makes is to shift his cigar in his mouth.

The new imperial wizard was born 54 years ago near Trussville, Ala., just outside Birmingham. He was one of nine children. His father was a farmer and part-time Baptist preacher.

Roper went into the Army in World War I and spent 23 months overseas as a railway engineer. He settled down in Atlanta in 1920 and shortly thereafter joined the Klan.

Two years after his arrival in Atlanta, Roper began work as a city of Atlanta policeman. Eventually he rose to head the Georgia Bureau of Investigation under the late Gov. Eugene Talmadge.

* * *

To Keep Masks Off

ROPER SAYS HE will enforce the anti-mask order by Green and insists that the Klan under him will operate within the law.

Spinks, like Roper, is a native of Alabama. He was born near Thomasville in Clarke County on, he says, a plantation. He is a smooth orator of the old school.

Three years ago, long after he had moved to Mississippi, Spinks ran for governor on a platform that lambasted liberal trends in the Democratic Party.

He says he can foresee a resurgent Klan riding back to power to preserve the principles of constitutional democracy and white supremacy.

The original Southern Klan came into being after the Civil War as a political movement to restore the franchise to white Southerners and to wrest control of the region from carpetbaggers and scalawags.

OTHER *Papers Say*

Their Hoods Are Silly, But KKK Principles Dangerous

(From St. Louis "Post Dispatch")

WHAT a man wears on the public streets ought to be determined by his own taste, good or bad, and by a reasonable respect for the community's canons of decency So it is a little difficult to rise to the support of the Alabama Senate's effort to outlaw the hoods of the Ku Klux Klan.

There is nothing particularly obnoxious about a man's desire to wear a nightgown over his suit, although it's pretty silly. As for masks; only cowards want to hide their faces. The offense of the Klan is not in its garb, but in its principles and practices. To these, the costume is only incidental.

In its principles, the Klan is anti-democratic. It sets itself against the Constitution of the United States. It denies the rights and privileges of citizenship to those to whom they have been extended by law. It uses terror to set the law aside.

Conceivably, it might be possible for Klansmen to assert in court their right to wear a hood. But it is inconceivable that the Klan should be able to maintain, in the words of Dr. E. P. Pruitt, a member of its board of governors, that its members "have not violated any law," that they have been faithful to their charter as a "social, fraternal, religious, eleemosynary, educational, patriotic and philanthropic society." On its public record, the Klan is the antithesis of all of those things.

In the main, the organization has been able to exist only to the extent that its prejudices were the prejudices of a substantial part of its community. There was a time in some parts of the South when a man could not aspire to public office without making a bow in its direction. But those days are running out.

This is demonstrated by the determination of Alabama's Gov. Folsom to wage a campaign for the Klan's extermination. Apparently, the state's attorney general is to file suit for the revocation of its charter. Obviously, prejudice is losing its grip.

When it goes, hoods will go, too.

The Invisible Empire

NEWS stories written by white correspondents in Alabama and Georgia, when tied together, form a horrible pattern. A gruesome, frightful picture comes to life. We get a view of what totalitarianism can become in our home of the brave and land of the free.

We see white Americans enslaved and terrified by the KKK monster, which they themselves created to keep Negroes weak and humble. Their own invention, like some Frankenstein, has turned against them.

Now that whites are being victimized, threatened, flogged and stricken, a great alarm is being sounded by the so-called responsible people of these states. Indeed, we welcome their belated concern. We predicted that their complacency over lynching and lawlessness would cost them dearly.

As long as the house of a Negro was on fire, they felt little concern over their own dwellings. Now the fire is burning the entire Southland. The Ku Klux Klan fire, however, may not stop at the Mason and Dixon line. The white Yankees who shrug their shoulders at the savagery of the South may one day find the evil at their own doorstep.

The Ku Klux Klan sought to build what it called an "invisible empire" following the first World War. They infiltrated the North and captured Indiana and other Northern states. President Truman won a notable victory in fighting the Klan in his home state of Missouri.

When the Negro press warns of the Klan menace, we take a look at history. At one time, the Klan dominated the politics of the most important states in the Union, and who can say that it will not do so again? Are racial and religious prejudices less powerful today? Who really knows?

Congress is afraid of an honest investigation of the Ku Klux Klan. The North is afraid of the South. General Grant won the Civil War, but the followers of General Lee have won the peace.

President Truman has valiantly sought to safeguard and guarantee the citizenship of Negroes, and what happened? Reactionaries in the North, and the rebels in the South, joined hands in the Congress of the United States to make sure that the Negro remains a second or third-class citizen.

We hope that the Klan's attack upon whites will do what the Klan savagery against Negroes never did. America must learn it cannot permit the growth of the Klan's invisible empire and remain a democracy. Joe Stalin does not need the atom bomb; all he has to do is wait until the Klan does his wicked work for him.

Things That Must Not Be

The News

This has been a blessed nation. Our people have lived under a strong sense of security in their homes and communities. They have had confidence in the law and its functioning. They have been at peace among themselves. Good will and tolerance have been far stronger than hate and prejudice. Decency has been the common thing.

Of course there have been many instances of departure from such civilized conditions. Our history includes revolution, frontier lawlessness, occasional mob action, even terrible internal warfare. Nevertheless, the fortunate fact is that for the most part we have lived in mutual good will, assured of the safety of our homes and persons—unafraid.

Such blessings are not guaranteed. We Americans are not automatically exempt from the dangers and tragedies that have come to so many other peoples, particularly in this age. Indeed, we have had enough trouble among ourselves, enough peril of our own making, to realize that.

Birmingham, Ala.

But usually when such disruptions of our community life have come, the greater forces of law, decency, tolerance and good will have been prompt to assert themselves—and to reestablish their dominance.

So we have generally lived without fear, bitterness or group antagonisms in our neighborhoods, in our rural communities, in our towns and cities. Only occasionally have sharp disturbances of these domestic conditions invaded our sense that things fundamentally are all right, that our way of life is secure.

Sun, 6-26-49

* * *

Here At Home

In recent months, this Birmingham area has been experiencing one of those occasional periods of disturbance and uneasiness. Many other areas in this country—particularly in the South—doubtless have been having something of the same experience. Postwar periods usually are marked by tensions and agitations.

Human faith has been deeply undermined by a second world conflict. Fear is much more easily aroused. Restlessness under unsatisfactory conditions is accentuated. New hopes are evoked. Pressures and controversies are increased. Things generally are in ferment and readjustment.

We have seen the ghastly extremes to which such conditions following World War I led in Europe. We know what fear, prejudice and hate brought to Germany and to Hitler's victims. We know how oppression, persecution and tyranny took over and brought catastrophe to all the world.

In our own country, in our Alabama communities, we are not, of course, fearing that any such extremes of tragedy and terror will threaten us. Nevertheless, we surely have had enough of lawlessness, outrage and terror here in this area in recent weeks and months to summon us peremptorily out of any complacency in this regard.

That there has been powerful and adequate response among our people to that summons assuring the stamping out of such dark deeds and threats as already have been suffered is now our strong hope. But we should not take its fulfillment for granted. It is minorities that usually establish ruthlessness and lawlessness and violence in communities and nations. They are able to do so largely because of the unwariness and indifference of majorities. For a long time in Germany Hitler was laughed at and the great majority of people had no idea that he would come to power. That sort of thing has happened repeatedly in human history.

Indifference and apathy have had much to do with the rise of the violence, masked and unmasked, in this area. Many paid little or no mind to the social strains and animosities that followed the war. Many, in their personal preoccupations, had little or no thought for pressing public problems, affecting group relations. Many, in agitating for changes, were careless of the intensification of feelings and dangers. Groups in various relations—racial, labor, political—drew farther and farther apart. Talk often was loose and one-sided. Prejudice often was incited. Constructive and creative attack on common problems languished. These are general statements. But thoughtful citizens can give them concrete and specific application.

* * *

The Rise Of Trouble

It was not surprising, in view of such conditions, that word was soon circulating in the South—and particularly hereabouts—of the revival of the Ku Klux Klan.

Prejudice and fear entered more intensely into many political controversies.

Countless Americans became more concerned with tensions, controversies and mutual misgivings than with the development of ways of solving or at least easing the problems underlying these conditions.

Almost two years ago a Birmingham home was bombed following a Federal Court decision upholding the right of its Negro owner to occupy that home. That was a signal of the acuteness of the dangers that prevailed in connection with one very difficult problem. But still there seemed no general awakening to the perils that were growing in this community.

A Negro Girl Scout camp was raided by hooded men and white women instructors were threatened. That was a year ago and no arrests have been made in the case.

Only in recent days, after a rapid fire series of outrageous events, did a great awakening to our dangers seem to develop among our people. Hooded men invaded a woman's home and maltreated her. A small cafe operator was visited and threatened. A war veteran was taken from his home and beaten, his small children left alone late at night. Owners and employes of a small coal mine in Shelby County were terrorized by an armed mob. One of the owners was badly hurt. A boy was among those beaten.

Our people were not indifferent to such a sequence of terror. Suddenly the community was profoundly aroused. On all sides rose demands for arrest and punishment of the guilty, for the assertion of the rule of law, for an end of mob violence and gang depredations, for a stamping out of the activities of hooded organizations of any kind.

* * *

Our Ultimate Defenses

Such a spirit and such a resolution are, of course, the ultimate forces of defense and control when such menaces develop in a free community. If our people remained indifferent to such attacks upon the very foundations of their security and peace, their way of life would be destroyed.

Those disposed to lawlessness and violence among us are relatively a small minority, but if their barbaric activities were long tolerated, they would multiply their outrages. They would become dominant. Fear would rule among us, instead of law. Danger for all would replace security. Conditions could actually develop which we had regarded as unthinkable.

If law enforcement is shown to be ineffective against open violence, mob action, gang raids, the beating and threatening of citizens, the invasion of homes, intimidation by hooded men operating in the night—then, of course, our way of life will be actually destroyed.

Not yet has full assurance been achieved that this lawlessness is under control. Not yet is there assurance that our law enforcement agencies are free of members of, or sympathizers with, hooded organizations. Not yet has justice caught up with the guilty. Not yet is it certain that our people fully comprehend all the dangers in which they have been involved. But we seem to be rising to our responsibility.

* * *

The Law Must Function

There is greater promise of adequate functioning of the forces of the law.

Gov. Folsom has taken a forthright initiative toward the wiping out of hooded activities. The mask of intimidation and violence seems certain to be outlawed. It may be hoped that organizations of any sort which use hoods to impose their will are coming to the end of their days in Alabama.

It still is unthinkable that this home state of ours, where our people have been used to living in peace and good neighborliness, will ever suffer an extended period of the rule of ruthlessness, of hate, of lawlessness, of fear, of violence. But there could be great danger in underestimating the menace of conditions which tend in that direction.

It seems now that our people are awake. It seems that the law is moving to establish its sovereignty. Always it has been that way in America. The decent people—and the law—and good will and tolerance—have finally prevailed, showing themselves the stronger.

But let us never dare to take our security and our peace and the rule of good neighborliness for granted. For such tendencies could make our peril much more acute and extensive.

* * *

Overcoming Crisis

Our people must make it unmistakably clear that the things we have regarded as unthinkable among us—an extended, widespread rule of lawlessness, a dominance of hate and fear—are indeed really beyond the bounds of possibility. The greatest force to that end is the powerfully asserted will of the people that such things simply must not be. The greatest danger of such outrages lies in public

indifference—the circulation of ideas or impressions that such things can be gotten away with.

All officials charged with the enforcement of the law among us must concentrate unremitting efforts in concerted endeavor to prove that the law is supreme, that it can put down any forces which challenge it.

These are the great factors that can restore and maintain our security and our peace.

Let us not dare risk the shadow of a doubt that these forces will prove adequate to our urgent and critical need.

Having put down these ugly challenges, having overcome our crisis, let us proceed with good will, good sense and resolute initiative to make progress against the many problems that continue to press upon us and tend to produce hate and fear and violence in our life.

here. But strong sentiment prevails in this region, of course, for local handling of such matters.

Whatever action is taken by congressmen, our own course should be apparent. Alabamians surely know—and long have said—that such problems, if they are to be dealt with effectively, must be met by local action.

Progress Against Mob Law

The News, Birmingham Ala.

The people and the people's representatives yesterday proceeded with important business. The attack on hoodlumism was continued. Effective action was taken by several groups.

The "Committee of 500" met at the Courthouse and underscored the intention of our citizens to support and assure vigorous law enforcement to end hooded terrorism.

The House judiciary committee, in Montgomery, voted unanimously to report favorably the Mize anti-masking bill. The action was prompt and followed full-blown appeals in behalf of masks by Klan officials.

Sheriff McDowell said he would have information ready to present to the solicitor or Grand Jury today.

Shelby County's Grand Jury returned 14 indictments in the investigation of an attack June 13 on the Hinz-McCormack coal mine. Six were for felonies, eight for misdemeanors.

* * *

From Washington it was reported yesterday that a subcommittee of the federal House of Representatives judiciary committee would undertake an investigation of masked attacks in Alabama. The fact that no arrests had been made was noted by Rep. Byrne of New York, who heads the subcommittee.

It is true that no arrests have been made. Undoubtedly that has made it appear in the national capital that little that is effective is being done.

Others are interested in what happens

News 6-23-49

Tuesday night veterans determined to help bring about the downfall of hooded terrorists met and emphasized their intention of working through the law. To this end they urged law enforcement officers to make certain whether any members of their forces are or have been members of any hooded or subversive organization. They also want Sheriff McDowell to state what he thinks are his needs, if he is effectively to enforce law, eliminate hooded bands and maintain peace and order. The calls deserve prompt attention.

* * *

The "Committee of 500," meeting at the instance of a group of Birmingham pastors, yesterday drew to the Courthouse a crowd sufficiently large to overflow into a courtroom balcony. Citizens seemed solemn as they heard Dr. John Buchanan explain the meeting's purpose. John P. Newsome served as chairman of the meeting which saw selection of five men to name 15 citizens to serve as a standing committee to support enforcement of law.

The five named were Thomas W. Martin, William Mitch, Frank B. Yeilding, Jr., Lawson Gambill and Dr. Buchanan. All have records of civic service to the community in a variety of ways. Their purpose will be to set up a representative "committee of 15" which will be expected to serve as long as necessary to the end that the full force of community opinion shall be felt.

The atmosphere of the assembly was one of calm deliberation. That is our spirit now, and should be. Organizations which have expressed deep concern over lawlessness have demonstrated their intention of working within our established law agencies to end mob terror.

That is a purpose which commands the full loyalty and support of each of us.

Appeal to CommonSense

The Constitution

We don't enjoy doing pieces about the Communists, the Kluckers and the other organizations which are harmful to America. But we believe in the eventual assertion of the common sense of the American people and we try to assist that great force which has kept us a nation.

Atlanta, Ga. 6-20-49

In Birmingham a deputy sheriff was found on guard for a klan meeting. We all know that the klan gets into police forces, sheriff's forces and into courts. Fortunately, unlike the days of the twenties, few public officials of any standing are in the klan today. But they are in our minor courts and our police forces.

We have seen how the Communists work their way into any office which permits them a secret entry.

What is the purpose of both? In each case they seek to aid, protect and further their own organizations. Now, where is the average American left? He is a good American, believing in his courts and in his law enforcement bodies generally. He doesn't belong to the secrets of the Communists or the klan and he doesn't want to belong. Atlanta, Ga.

But he will be without justice or the assurance of a fair trial if the Communists or the klan are represented on the jury or on the bench or among the arresting officers, who would commit perjury to aid their organizations. 6-20-49

That is just one good sound reason why both organizations are harmful to America and subversive to the American system of government.

The People For The Law

News over the week-end of additional recent hooded activities surely would have plunged good citizens of this community into even greater shame, had it not been for positive evidences of a developing will to stop the sweep of barbarism.

B'ham News, Birmingham, Ala. 6-20-49

Facts of the flogging three weeks ago of Bill Hamilton, and the abuse of William Henry Rochester, both of Upper Coalburg in Jefferson County, are from the same cloth as those of earlier hooded activities. Mr. Rochester reported immediately — three weeks ago, after the attack—to the Jefferson County sheriff. He was urged to keep quiet. Sheriff Holt McDowell explains that the request was made to facilitate investigation.

But after his first talk with the sheriff, Mr. Rochester reported that he had not heard from the sheriff's office. Billy Guyton Stovall, young father and Navy veteran, told reporters investigators did not ask him to take them to the scene of his flogging.

Beating and threatened hanging of five persons in the Dora area about two weeks ago was brought to light yesterday.

Disclosure of all such incidents clearly is called for in the public interest.

* * *

The state, meanwhile, is moving with dispatch to help curb these lawless activities. The state Senate with only three dissenting votes Friday passed an anti-hood bill. The House is expected to vote on it soon. The governor has asked the attorney general to begin proceedings looking to the outlawing of hooded organizations.

6-20-49

The formation of an association of citizens' groups to stimulate support of law and order in this area is most encouraging. Our citizens now seem awakened to the tragedy of this wave of violence. Let all keep positively in mind the necessity for working through established channels of law enforcement. And let law enforcement authorities clearly understand the public demand that the terrorism, the hoodlumism, shall be stopped.

More Deputies Needed

To the Editor: The News

It is a hopeful sign of better law enforcement in the future when civic groups and newspapers of this district take an active and constructive interest and not merely a critical attitude towards grave problems of law enforcement. Birmingham, Ala.

Progress will surely result from the program of educating all citizens of both races to the duty of good citizens to aid in the protection of the personal and property rights of others by complete cooperation with law enforcement officers.

Jefferson County today alone has more people than the entire population of Alabama in 1820 when the present laws that limit the authority of sheriffs and deputies to arrest only for offenses committed in their presence or by warrant of arrest were made the law of Alabama. This was not an unreasonable safeguard in 1820 when the criminal's opportunity for escape was limited to the speed of a horse. News 6-26-49

I think Sheriff Holt McDowell has done and is doing a remarkable job with his meager force of less than 30 men in a county of half a million people. His force should be at least doubled even if a special legislative tax act is necessary. The members of the Legislature of this county are familiar with the many problems brought about by the recent rapid growth of Jefferson County and it should be apparent to them the need for a greatly enlarged sheriff's force unhampered by obsolete laws that limit the power of arrest by sheriffs.

The need of the people of this county for the increased protection of an adequate sheriff's force is just as urgent as the need for sewers and roads.

G. L. PATTIE.

1526 North 23rd Street.

Cross Is Burned Before Woman's Home In Parrish

The news, Birmingham, Ala.
Thu. 6-23-49

Hooded and robed night riders were on the prowl early this morning in Walker County. They burned a cross in front of a Parrish home but left without threats or warnings.

Mrs. Lois Bickerton, Parrish, says the fiery cross, symbol of the Ku Klux Klan, was left at her home about 12:30 a.m.

Parrish police said three cars apparently were involved. Officers were not sure whether or not the men driving the cars wore robes and hoods.

Mrs. Bickerton said the four persons in the house were aroused by the flaming cross.

* * *

WHEN THEY GOT to a window she said, they spotted one car driving away. Police were called, but the cross had burned out before they arrived.

"Then, about 2:30 a.m.," Mrs. Bickerton said, "we saw a man with a white robe on going into a house only a few doors away from us. He was with a man who had no robe on. Thu. 6-23-49

"They turned the light on in the house for a minute and it looked like the man with a hood was given a gun. Then the light went out. The two men came outside and watched our place. Someone struck a match, probably to light a cigaret, and we could see the white robe very plainly."

Mrs. Bickerton said she had no idea of the reason for the cross burning. She said she could recall no similar incidents in Parrish.

People's Battle On Mob Violence Gathers Speed

the news, Birmingham, Ala.
Wed. 6-22-49

Citizens Map Talks; McDowell Promises Report For Jurors

A people's war on mob violence and hooded gangs in Jefferson County and Alabama moved with effective, lightning speed today.

Hammer-like blows against hooded orders, floggings, cross burnings and other mob violence were struck so fast today one action piled up on another almost faster than news wires could carry them. Wed. 6-22-49

AS A CITIZENS committee of 100 against violence and crime was

to meet at 4 o'clock today at the courthouse to map further campaign strategy, these things happened:

1. A full-fledged congressional investigation of hooded mobs in Jefferson County was called.

2. The FBI today handed the Department of Justice its preliminary

Vets' Committee To Meet Friday

The recently formed Jefferson County united veterans committee has been called to meet at the Jefferson County Courthouse at 7:30 p.m. Friday.

It is expected this group will take action with regard to mob violence by hooded gangs.

The committee is made up of representatives of all veterans organizations in the county. Col. Henry C. Wood is chairman.

findings on mob action in Jefferson County.

3. **Sheriff Holt McDowell said public pressure and publicity had "weakened fear and terror" among mob victims sufficient for some of them to come forward to give evidence.**

4. He said he would have information ready for the solicitor tomorrow for a Grand Jury investigation.

5. Grand Jury is standing by ready to be called into extraordi-

REWARD INCREASES

More than $500 has been received by Gen. Gorgas Post, American Legion, for its reward fund against mob violence by hooded men.

Legion members said the reward money would be used for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the floggers of William Guyton Stovall and to "gather information on hooded floggers."

nary session to investigate floggings and parades by masked men in the county.

6. The judiciary committee of the House in Montgomery favorably and unanimously the Mize anti-masking law and quick passage was predicted in the House. The Senate already has passed it.

7. Solicitor Emmet Perry is ready to present evidence against hooded mobsters before the Grand Jury when he receives the sheriff's report. Wed. 6-22-49

Action at last night's united veterans' executive committee meeting on crime and violence moved effectively across a wide front.

The VETERANS' GROUP representing 12 American Legion posts and representatives from all other veterans organizations took quick action to:

Author Says Klan Stages Comeback

N.Y. Herald Tribune
New York, N.Y.

Tells House Hearing It Has New Roots in North

WASHINGTON, May 20 (UP). —The Ku-Klux Klan is growing and has put down new roots in Northern states, including Indiana and New Jersey, Stetson Kennedy, author, told Congress today.

Testifying before a House Labor subcommittee on fair employment practice legislation, Mr. Kennedy said he joined the Klan in 1946 to get material for his book, "Southern Exposure."

In addition to the Klan, he said, he kept in touch with groups such as the Columbians, the American Shores Patrol and the Gentile Army. All, he said, trade in hate against Negroes, Jews and Catholics. Sat. 5-21-49

The witness, who asked that his address be kept in "strict confidence," said he saw checks sent by mill owners to publishers of "hate sheets" which were sent to employees in Southern mills.

He said many of the "hate groups" concentrate on opposition to F. E. P. C. legislation because of a belief that if Negroes and whites have equal job opportunities, higher wages for both will result.

Mr. Kennedy said the Klan has re-established itself in "at least twenty states," including some in the North. He produced what he said was a Klan banner for a Hudson County, New Jersey, chapter to back his claim.

The subcommittee chairman, Representative Adam Clayton Powell, Democrat, of New York, said he will bring Mr. Kennedy before the full Labor Committee to repeat his story. He said he also plans to mention it to "friends" on the House Committee on Un-American Activities.

Group Approves Anti-Masking Bill

the news
Birmingham, Ala.

MONTGOMERY, Ala., June 22—The House judiciary committee voted unanimously today to report the Mize anti-masking bill favorably. Wed. 6-22-49

The motion to report favorably was offered by Rep. Will Sadler, of Jefferson County.

Having been assured a favorable report as a result of the House judiciary committee's action today, the Mize bill is scheduled to receive a second reading in the House Friday and go on calendar for passage Tuesday.

Speaker W. M. Beck's rules committee, meantime, is expected to make the bill a special order for Tuesday.

If passed on that day, it will take effect almost immediately, as Gov. James E. Folsom is strongly in favor of the measure.

* * *

THE VOTE FOLLOWED a public hearing of about an hour, during which opponents and proponents debated.

The Ku Klux Klan was strongly defended by A. D. Driver, Birmingham Electric Company bus driver; William Hugh Morris, Birmingham, an admitted Klan official; L. C. Albright, Birmingham attorney, who said he is not a member of the Klan.

Speaking for the bill were John S. Foster, Birmingham attorney; T. H. Wallace, Montgomery, spokesman for the Veterans of Foreign Wars and other veterans' organizations; Eugene Wells, Birmingham, CIO official, and Sen. Henry H. Mize, Tuscaloosa, the bill's sponsor.

In reply to assertions by opponents of the bill that the Klan is a patriotic organization and that its members do not violate the law behind masks, Sen. Mize declared:

"My bill merely provides that law enforcement officers will have an opportunity to intercept hooded mobs before they can commit acts of violence."

* * *

NEAR THE CLOSE of the hearing, Atty. Albright called off the names of several legislators he said he would like to question.

He named Sens. Preston Clayton, of Barbour; A. L. Patterson, of Phenix City; David U. Patton, Limestone; C. J. Owens, Marshall; Mack Golson, Lowndes.

Albright said he would like to question them about Senate consideration of the anti-masking bill. Committee members stopped him, saying the senators could speak for themselves.

Driver told the committee, in opening the discussion in opposition to the bill, he had been a Kluxer since the 1920s.

He said that if the mask is outlawed, many employers would discharge employes who belong to the Klan. That, he said, was the reason why the mask should not be outlawed.

THE REV. ALVIN HORN, Baptist minister from Talladega, Ala., told the committee the Klan's chief purpose is the preservation of "white supremacy," which he said "our enemies are trying to destroy."

"I'd rather be hung from the balcony over the steps where Jeff Davis took his oath, than to have the mask taken from the Klan at this crucial hour," he said.

Jefferson Davis was inaugurated as president of the Confederate States of America, in 1861, in the building in which the committee hearing is being held. Wed. 6-22-49

MORRIS TOLD committee members that the main opponents of the Klan are "honky tonk operators, common prostitutes and people of that type, who are a discredit to the community in which they live."

He added: "The Klan is part of the traditions of the South. We are proud of the organization for which the mask stands and those which it symbolizes."

"Any man who is a member of the Klan and who would violate his oath of allegiance is banished. The man who wears the Klan mask takes an oath not to violate the law but to uphold the constitution."

After reading excerpts he added: "We hold that any man who violates the law while wearing the mask is insulting the memory of the men of 1870.

"We believe that law, if passed, would be a direct condemnation of the Klan and it would be an accepted presumption that any man who wears a mask does so for the purpose of violating the law.

* * *

"WE THINK a better way would be to enact a law providing that any man who violates the law while wearing a mask is committing a felony.

"We have at this time more than 200 men patrolling the streets and highways in Jefferson and Walker Counties. And we will continue to patrol those streets and highways so long as trouble is likely.

"WE HAVE OFFERED a reward for the conviction of any person who wears a mask for violating the law.

"We do so because we believe anyone who violates the law behind the mask is a threat to good government."

Rep. Roberts, committee chairman, asked Morris how many members of the Klan there are in Alabama.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS interrupted, saying that if the senators so desired, they could speak for themselves.

Mr. Wallace opened the hearing by saying he was speaking for the V. F. W. and other veterans' organizations. He read resolutions passed in December and again a week ago by the V. F. W. condemning mass violence.

Mr. Foster said he was speaking for veterans' organizations generally.

He said they are opposed to hooded violence. Foster, too, read resolutions adopted by veterans' organizations.

"These resolutions," Foster said, "are from men who do not have to hide their faces behind masks."

Mr. Wells, the next speaker, said the CIO as an organization is for this bill and wants to go on record as formally urging its passage.

* * *

THE BILL'S sponsor, Sen. Mize, briefly closed the discussion for proponents of the measure.

Sen. Mize derided contentions that his bill would interfere with the innocent celebration of holidays such as Mardi Gras and Halloween. He reiterated that the bill sought to accomplish one thing—to give law officers opportunity to arrest masked men before they had an opportunity to violate the law.

Greene Sen. James S. Coleman, Jr., introduced a separate bill yesterday to accomplish what he attempted by an amendment offered last week to the Mize bill.

Coleman's proposal is intended to prevent a recurrence of violence and threats which forced a small non-union coal mine in Shelby County to close recently.

It would make it unlawful for two or more persons, masked or unmasked, to "enter upon the premises of another for the purpose of interfering with or preventing the carrying on of business on such premises."

Misdemeanor punishment of fine up to $1,000 and 12 months jail sentence is provided for convicted violators.

It is similar to an amendment to the Mize bill which was killed in the Senate when Lieut. Gov. J. C. Inzer ruled it not germane to the original bill.

Klan Blames Poor Press on Spies

Afro American, Baltimore Md.

Sat. 1-1-49

WASHINGTON (ANP) — The Ku Klux Klan is having spy trouble, it was revealed here in Drew Pearson's syndicated column, "Washington Merry-Go-Round," last week.

In its program for the elemination of such things as civil rights, the Klan has learned that it has spies within its group. They are revealing the group's secrets to such people as Drew Pearson and the newspapers.

In its recent meeting in Macon a reporter from a colored newspaper was thrown out. A main part of Grand Dragon Green's talk was that of getting rid of "Drew Pearson's spy."

Fears Publicity

Green also told klansmen to consult klavern officers before taking action. He said they could call him at any hour of the night if "things need to be straightened out."

Sat-1-1-49

He also fumed at "some sorry, low down scoundrel" who hung a klansman in effigy. A full search for the owner of the robe used in this effigy was promised if it is necessary to call in all robes to check for the missing one.

Speaking of Methodist ministers who recently condemned Chief Ellis of the county police for letting the Klan parade Dec. 4, a klan member said:

"They are so called preachers who are trying to condemn everything except Methodists."

Burn Crosses At Florida Beach

Defender Sat. 5-28-49, Chicago Ill.

JUPITER, Fla. — Two crosses were burned here within a week after the Palm Beach County Commission dedicated a Negro beach. Citizens opposing the Negro beach organized and secured the services of an attorney to take action against the commission's move. The crosses were burned on the road leading to the beach.

DEAR CONGRESS: NO TIME FOR VACATION NOW

New Age, New York

The Ku Klux Klan "storm troopers" have begun their death march again down yonder and I wonder where my people can hide and how they can fight back. Police headquarters? Police protection? Not down yonder.

Not one person has been convicted of a lynching in Georgia since 1924—there's never been "sufficient evidence" in any of the cases, even if someone actually saw the goons at work. And police headquarters seems to be the favorite spot to start off a lynching. No, we can't expect much from Dixie cops.

Sat 6-25-49

Every time you see a picture of a Klan meeting they have an American flag sitting right down front. They begin their meetings with the Pledge of Allegiance—"with liberty and justice for all"—and then get down to figuring out how to knock out the liberty and the justice as neatly as possible.

In Tallahassee, Florida, the KKK parades down the streets and the police guard the goons and the hoodlums as they ride down the main thoroughfare in 100 automobiles.

JOE'S WRITE HAND

by Joe Louis

Jews in Our Democracy

THERE ARE Orthodox, reform and conservative Jews. All of them are integrated, to a vital degree, within our democracy. Too many of us are ignorant about the laws, customs and history governing the Jewish diet. We admit that education is as much a part of Jewish culture as their dietary practices. All too often we comment in light vein on how the Jew works, makes sacrifices to get the best in education, and is ready, prepared and willing when employment and prestige breaks come his way.

From Mrs. Jiggetts' book and its numerous bibliographical references I shall remember this: Catholic or Protestant looks for a church or chapel. The former looks for a priest for mass; the latter, for a clergyman and his sermon. The Jew makes his synagogue secondary; but his butcher shop (shohet) is first.

The glossary in this book covers only three-and-a-half pages but it is one of the most interesting sections. Dedicated to her parents, the Rev. and Mrs. John W. Roberts, this book furthers a belief in the fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man. J. Ida Jiggetts' brain child ought to get wide reading among Jews and Gentiles.

P. S.—The "J" in Mrs. Jiggetts' name is for John, after her father.

In Birmingham, Alabama, the KKK whips a Navy vet twenty times and tops it off by beating a grandmother.

In Soperton, Georgia, however, the mayor of the small town takes the bull by the horns and puts three Kluxers in jail after removing their masks. This one guy is doing more than nine-tenths of our Washington bigwigs.

Grand Dragon Sam Green sits in his office in Atlanta with a tin halo around his head and is awful sure of himself. I'm waiting for the day he gets so sure of himself that he invites some of the Congressmen down to go along on a few of the Klan's rides.

The gents in Washington need to get in close range so they can see what's going on down yonder. Sam Green could end up doing us all a big favor, but I'm afraid that he is just as slick as he is confident. *6-25-49*

So the death march goes on. People are beaten, crosses burned and Congress mops its forehead and looks forward to fishing and the summer vacation.

The KKK And Us

N. Y. Age, New York, Sat 7-2-49

IT'S A TERRIBLE thing to say, but it's our suspicion that we will never get an anti-lynching bill passed until they start lynching each other like they lynch us down South. Nobody cared much what the Ku Klux Klan did to Negroes in the past until the nightgowned riders started beating up and threatening white men and women. Now Congress is asking questions about what's going on in Birmingham and Kissing Jim Folsom, Governor of Alabama, is raising a mighty hubbub about it all.

Indignation is sweeping the South and pretty soon every state south of the Mason & Dixon will have an anti-nightgown measure on its books — and the law will enforce it or else.

"God moves in mysterious ways. His wonders to perform," the old folks used to and still say that. After they lynch some white person (as in the distant past), Congress will finally come up with some stringent legal safeguards that will apply to us all. In that case, the Klan, along with old Dr. Sam Green in Atlanta, will deserve plenty of support, don't you think?

7-2-49

They Took Law Into Hands; Tell Who And Get Reward

The News, Birmingham, Ala. Jan. 6-30-49

Who are the men who hid behind masks and took the law into their own hands?

Who flogged Billy Stovall?

Who led the raid when armed and robed men tried to terrorize Mrs. Hugh McDanal in Westwood?

* * *

WHO ENGINEERED the invasion of a Brookside cafe?

Who put the lash to the Coalburg miner's back?

Somebody knows.

If you know the answers to any of these questions, if you know anything about masked flogging or threats by masked men you may share in a $2,200 reward.

Mail it to Special Information, P. O. Box 2553, Birmingham.

The American Legion wants to know.

Gen. Gorgas Post No. 1, American Legion has a growing reward fund to end masked floggings in Jefferson County, to bring the guilty to justice.

If you can give ANY information do it secretly and help uphold the law.

Jan. 6-30-49 * * *

PRINT YOUR INFORMATION on a sheet of paper.

Don't sign your name

Just print some numbers on the middle of the page and three letters of the alphabet

Then print that same set of numbers and letters on a corner of the page. Tear off the corner numbers and hide them. That will be your reward proof.

Mail your facts to Special Information, P. O. Box 2553, Birmingham.

Southern Industrialists Accused Of Aiding Klan

Journal and Guide, Norfolk, Va. Sat. 5-28-49

By International News Service

WASHINGTON, D. C. — (A) — A former Ku Klux Klan member told a House Labor subcommittee Friday that "reactionary" southern businessmen are subsidizing "hate groups" to oppose the President's civil rights program.

Sat. 5-28-49

Stetson Kennedy, author of a recent book exposing the klan and similar organizations, testified on legislation to establish a fair employment practices commission.

"He asserted that "Anti-Negro, Anti-Semitic and Anti-Catholic" groups as well as "hate sheets" were given financial aid by some southern industrialists because they oppose the FEPC bill.

Kennedy remarked:

"Their motives are strictly economic in the hope of keeping down not only Negro but white wages.".

He said that publishers of racial literature obtained the mailing list of employes from southern industrialists. He charged that Nelson Sparks, editor of "The Southern Outlook," which he described as "a vicious hate sheet," had received numerous checks from Alabama textile manufacturers.

Kennedy declared that the Ku Klux Klan is growing and has been rebuilt in 20 states since the end of the war. He also testified that Homer Loumis, organizer of the Columbians, is planning to revive his organization under another name.

Green's Unmasking Order

Public opinion is beginning to assert itself against the Ku Klux Klan and the outrages its members are committing. Enlightened southerners do not feel the need for such an outfit as the Klan. They know that the Klan is hurting southern people and hurting America, too. And, led by the southern white press, they are determined to get rid of it.

The fight against the Klan, of course, is for the part, being waged by the better elements of the South. The poor, uneducated whites, of whom there are many, do not understand their plight. Klan organizers have played upon their ignorance and hatreds for individual gain. Politicians have used them as the means by which they succeeded in winning election to office of one sort or another. They have been taught, across the years, that their plight and misery is caused by the Negro and that if it were not for these Negroes they would have happiness and plenty to meet the necessities of life.

Atlanta, Ga. Daily World

Southerners are not all to blame for this vicious propaganda. Northern white capitalists are some of the most dangerous of these betrayers. Northern capital, often times joined by southern capital, is poured into Georgia at election time to help defeat liberal candidates for office and to finance the candidacy of race-baiters because they make their greatest profits out of racial friction, fear and suspicion. The same thing is followed in other states, as in the case of Senator Claude Pepper, of Florida, and Senator Lister M. Hill of Alabama. Northern capital, joined again by southern financiers, figured prominently in the promotion of the Dixiecrats' campaign last Summer.

Wed. 8-10-49

We have given this introduction to our comment on the Klan's unmasking order by Dr. Samuel Green, now its Wizard, to show that in spite of this force and support which the Klan once enjoyed, it is losing grounds. The poor whites are beginning to see that they are being exploited just as surely as the Negroes; that their lot is bad because they have been taught to hate the Negro, who is in no wise responsible; they have been taught to despise organized labor. We repeat, this has been the vicious campaign waged over the years to keep the poor whites ignorant so they, like the Negro, could be exploited and subdued.

President Truman's civil rights program has been seized upon as a cause for Klan action. But it is the other way around. The irresponsible acts of mob-violence and Klan intimidation have caused America untold embarrassment in the councils of other nations of the world. Now that they have indicated their desire to unmask, let's hope that the General Assembly will grant them their desire by making it legal.

KKK CALLED INSIGNIFICANT:

'Myth' of Klan's Rise in Strength Debunked

Afro-American Sat. 9-24-49

NEW YORK — The "myth" that the Ku Klux Klan is solidly entrenched in the South was debunked here last week by Alexander F. Miller, southern director of the Anti-Defamation League, B'nai B'rith, who has spent the last eight years fighting bigotry and injustice toward colored people in the South.

Despite sensational reports of the revival of the Ku Klux Klan, Miller said, outside of Georgia, the Klan has no semblance of importance as an organized terror movement; and its tie-in with Georgia politics keeps it going there.

Rather than growing into a coordinated movement, he continued, the Klan has become "fragmentized," so that now there are six separate Klans, all of them insignificant except Georgia's.

Only 50 at Rally

He pointed out that the Federated KKKs of Alabama was so weak that only 50 of its members attended a rally held recently to protest the jailing of its chief, William U. Morris, for defying a subpoena to produce its membership list, although a turnout of thousands had been promised.

On the reverse side of the picture, Miller stated, Alabama recently passed an anti-masking law; and 21 Southern cities now outlaw cross burning and mask wearing.

People Reject Klan Way

"The South today is not yet ready," he said, "to tackle the problem of civil rights for all, but the South of today knows that the Klan was does not supply the answer."

Baltimore, Md.

The only Klan violence this year was confined to three small areas, outside of Georgia, Miller declared, listing Tallahassee, Fla.; Chattanooga, Tenn.; and Jefferson County, Ala.

He pointed out that the anti-Klan drive in the South is spearheaded by the press and all denominations of the church.

Kluxers Strike 4 Times

Courier Sat. 9-17-49

(Pittsburgh Courier Press Service)

WASHINGTON — Striking in four localities last week, robed and unrobed mobsters of the Ku Klux Klan used fire and blackjacks to strike terror into the hearts of Negroes and chalk up another week of intimidation on the national scene.

In Western Alabama, a robed but unmasked mob of whites went to the home of Glover Davis in Tuscaloosa, and whipped him unmercifully with blackjacks and other weapons. An auto repair shop owner, Mr. Davis was pulled out of the door of his home to cars parked in front of the house.

The mob struck again, the same evening, forcing its way into the home of Mrs. Pinky McGhee, who lives in a two-story apartment near Stillman College. Searching for Mr. McGhee, the hoodlums searched several homes in the neighborhood including the store of Henry Tutwilder which is located directly across from the college campus.

Pittsburgh, Pa.

In the nation's capital, Washington, D. C., the glow of flames from a four-foot cross and the sound of breaking glass awakened Ralph Sneed from his slumber. Windows in the front and rear of his home at 1709 M. Street, N. E., had been broken. A white neighbor extinguished flames from the cross, burning on the lawn, with a garden hose.

Police claimed that elements in the neighborhood were resentful of the Sneeds living there. A veteran of Iwo Jima and, at present, employed by the Navy Department, Sneed said, "This is my house and home. I am prepared to defend it. The only way they will get me out will be to carry me out."

In Wilmer, La., a mob of whites recently set fire to the home of Fletcher Williams, 52, who had protested to Federal authorities because he had been denied the right to vote.

The Klan's Decline

Watch for the early disintegration of Ku Klux Klan movements in the South. Broken up after it reached a peak of power in the 1920s, the Klan has never reunited and is now split into four factions whose weakness is shown by preposterous rival membership claims. State governments are increasingly on the offensive against the night-shirters, and the Federal government is moving in with income-tax cases—a tactic which spurred dissolution of earlier KKK revivals.

9-26-49

St. Louis Argus.

DEMOCRACY OR MOB-OCRACY

Today, in St. Louis, we are face to face with the questio of whether DEMOCRACY shall be the principle under whic this city shall be ruled and governed, or shall mob-ocrac dictate the future policy of the Mound City.

Why such a question is proffered at this time, is too wel known to repeat at this point, but it suffices to say that th Gerald L. K. Smith crowd is jubilant over the race rio which gave some of the city officials a scare recently.

In the meanwhile, the G.L.K.S. and the KKK coalitio is working hand and glove to block every effort to accor the Negroes citizenship rights whether such efforts are mad by city, state or nation. And wherever there are noticeabl gains along racial lines, the Ku Klux Klan's representative are there.

St. Louis, Mo.

It is generally known, Gerald L. K. Smith's crowd bears the spirit of the Klan and is the exponent of Hitler's ideaology of racial superiority.

Fri 7-8-49

It is regrettable that too few honest-to-goodness people know that the chief purpose of the LEADERS of the GLKS and the KKK is money, Money, MONEY and of course these leaders know that it is easy to extract the cash from the pockets of those who are ignorant, and, those who are blinded by racial and religious prejudice.

We have been informed that Gerald L. K. Smith calls himself an ordained minister of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. What a pity, what a pity. His preaching of racial hatred belies, we believe, any connection this man claims he has with the lowly Nazarene who went about doing good toward his fellow man.

In the meanwhile, let the people who claim to have so much love for their country and its boasted democracy, rise in their righteous indignation and hew-to-the-line, letting the "chips" fall where they may. All of this talk about disloyalty, subversive activities, etc., looks to us like dodging the question. The real enemies of democracy are those who DAMN the laws of the land and disregard the Constitution of the United States.

DO NOT BE DECEIVED--MAKE NO MISTAKE ABOUT IT, the Klan and the Gerald L. K. Smith forces are doing their damnest to take over the reins of the city. They are out night and day, Sunday and Monday, going to and fro, spreading racial hatred among the people, stirring up and inciting to riot the otherwise peaceful communities.

They are leaving no stone unturned to FORCE, by intimidation, Mayor Darst to keep the racial ban on the swimming pools of the city.

THIS IS A MIGHTY CHALLENGE TO THOSE WHO REALLY BELIEVE IN JUSTICE AND FAIRPLAY!!

As Pontius Pilate, House Washes Its Hands Of Klan

WASHINGTON — As Pontius Pilate "washed" his hands in sending Christ to his doom, so did a congressional committee end a probe of the hooded terror in Dixie last week.

Meanwhile Congress is set to adjourn in a few weeks. *7-8-49*

Said Rep. Byrne, Democrat of New York: "I have no further plans for continuing an investigation into incidents which already are under study by FBI agents and Alabama police."

Edgar G. Brown, director of the National Negro Council demanded that the committee call in Alabama Negroes for testimony of the floggings. Byrne closed out the hearing without comment.

It Had to Happen

TWENTY-SIX years ago this newspaper called attention to the fact that when America started to lynch white citizens the incident would signal the beginning of the end for a barbaric custom which had lost its moral balance on the scale of partisan politics. *The Courier,*

The Courier editorial of 1923 was written at the time when the Dyer anti-lynching measure was being "talked to death" in Congress . . . while Negroes made merry at a big college football game, with all the social trimmings. It was written at the time when the late Dr. Kelly Miller of "Sanhedrin" fame wrote his immortal column, "Fiddling While Rome Burns." In that column he caustically pointed up how Negro leaders danced, drank and gambled in the nation's capital, while a piece of vital legislation went to its ignominious death.

Today, twenty-six years later, lynching has not been outlawed by law in the U.S.A., but the forces of decency and liberalism . . . so vital to the preservation of our democratic way of life . . . have made it an indivisible part of our political program. Even the South admits that the time for positive action is at hand. Why? They started to lynch white people! The end result was inevitable.

* * *

As lynching and its counterpart . . . the rope and the faggot . . . declined, a new terror swept the South. It was the terror of the Ku Klux Klan, the hooded robesmen who traveled through the South in the still of the night, defying constituted authority, and taking the law into their own hands.

They opposed Negroes, Catholics, Jews. But their reign of terror for years was directed at Negro citizens. Result . . . apathy and a do-nothing attitude.

Recently, however, the Klan, made bold by the lethargy of the forces of law and order, decided to widen its horizons. It started to intimidate and beat and terrorize whites. *Pittsburgh, Pa.*

Now, a wave of public-spirited protest is sweeping the entire South. Newspapers and public officials are in the forefront of the battle to wipe out the Klan. Florida has acted. Alabama will shortly follow suit. The Klan is even being investigated in Georgia, and an unhealthy political alliance is intimated. *Sat. 7-9-49*

Result!—The Klan is on its way . . . OUT!

Moral!—When the forces of evil are allowed to grow unmolested and in defiance of the laws which govern our land . . . when these forces are allowed to wreak their vengeance on the underprivileged, then they take enough rope to hang themselves.

That is one of the strange, but leveling influences of democracy.

Tennessee And Georgia Too

The tragedy of vicious abuse of human dignity, ignoring due process of law, has struck states other than Alabama during recent months. It is gratifying to report that orderly processes, stimulated by apparently deeply disturbed citizens, now seem to be functioning better and not only in Alabama.

In Georgia Wednesday night a Federal Grand Jury indicted 12 men, including a sheriff and three deputies, for conspiracy to violate civil rights of seven Negroes. The Negroes said they were flogged by a mob of 50 to 75 hooded and robed men April 2, near Hooker, Ga.

One of the men and the four officers had been indicted earlier by a Dade County (Georgia) Grand Jury on charges involving assembly to riot and failure to prevent violence. The officers claimed they had arrested the Negroes for creating a disturbance, and that following arrest a mob took the Negroes from them.

The nature of the counts of indictment, both in the Dade County and the Federal Grand Jury instances, deserve attention: They are the kind of charges which apparently have to be brought when there are no more direct charges available. Georgia has no anti-mask law.

* * *

On the same day that the Georgia Federal Grand Jury was indicting 12, a Hamilton County (Tennessee) Grand Jury, led by its foreman, went to the office of the state attorney general and requested action in the alleged flogging of a 70-year-old Negro in the Hixson (Tenn.) community. The Negro said he was flogged Sunday night. He claimed he had been threatened last January.

Following the Hamilton County Grand Jury's request, the attorney general assigned an investigator to the case. The same day—Wednesday—he went to the community where the flogged Negro lived, brought back two witnesses who said they could identify two of the hooded mobmen.

That afternoon two men were arrested on warrants involving 10 different charges, the most severe of them being that of assault with deadly weapon while in disguise. In Tennessee conviction on that charge could be punished by death by electrocution.

The problem, all along, in Tennessee apparently has not been one of inadequate laws directly to deal with a Klan or hood situation, but of failure to act under the laws. *The Chattanooga Times*, lauding this pair of arrests, said in complaint of the condition which had existed: "Not once has the sheriff's force in Hamilton County broken up a raid or done anything until the details were published in *The Chattanooga Times*. . . . Gov. Browning recently made the statement that he saw nothing wrong in burning crosses if nobody was hurt. . . . It is time for Sheriff Burns to confront Mr. Swafford and his other deputies and tell them to break up these murderous raids or get out."

The Chattanooga Times has been waging an unrelenting campaign for action. More than once it has cited action against mobsters in Alabama, and told its readers that Tennesseans ought to begin doing as much. The Chattanooga newspaper has contended flatly that Hamilton County hood violence has been worse than in Alabama.

The actions all around seem hopeful. Much remains to be done. In Hamilton County, Tennessee, as in Alabama's Jefferson, part of the problem has been adequate action in county law enforcement. In the Hamilton County case, it is noteworthy that the investigator who "produced" was a county investigator apparently under the state attorney general. And it was, *The Chattanooga Times* states, the initiative of the Grand Jury—actually meeting to investigate county institutions—which really "produced."

The final responsibility, as is shown again remains with The Citizen.

A New South Is Emerging From Struggle To Smash Second Wave Of Mob Violence

By BEM PRICE

ATLANTA, Aug. 6.—(AP)—Once again the South is struggling to halt a wave of violence and intimidation by bands of men, masked and unmasked, who set themselves up as plaintiffs, judges and executioners.

There have been more than 100 incidents this year.

Nearly all of the actions, including the beating of 50 individuals, have been designed to intimidate for reasons of race, religion or morals.

The list includes two major racial disturbances in the border cities of Washington and St. Louis.

One lynching, one attempted lynching, four mob actions, the burning of three Negro homes and the bombing of four, are part of the over-all picture .

(Crimes of passion, naturally, are not confined to any one section of the country. Since the first of the year Chicago had a gang-style slaying; Los Angeles its night club shooting of Mickey Cohen, reputed overlord of the gambling syndicates; Michigan and New York their "lonely hearts" murders; Tacoma its 10 men charged with raping a former inmate of a mental institution; Detroit its shooting of labor leader Victor Reuther.

(But the difference between the general run of violence and the problem in the South is largely a factor of racial friction.)

For the South, it has been a nightmare with deep roots in the poverty stricken aftermath of the Civil War—the collapse of a political and economic system built on slave labor.

This is not the first time the South has had a wave of such trouble. During the decade 1920-30, the Ku Klux Klan became so powerful that law enforcement often was a farce and political ambitions were lost without the support of the hooded order.

For much of the time the South dozed complacently until its press finally aroused the public. The newspapers exposed the Klan as an "invisible empire" which set its own edicts above the law. Klansmen, squirming in the white glare of publicity, turned on Klansmen, and the empire crumbled.

Now the Klan is resurgent, claiming 17,000 members in Alabama and 25,000 in Georgia alone. Figures for the other Southern states have never been stated.

With floggings, cross burnings and threats hanging over the region once more, the newspapers have gone to work again. They have been joined by church groups, judges, civic associations, veterans organizations and individual citizens.

Birmingham, Ala., is one case in point. With nearly a score of floggings, bombings and threats on the record, all three Birmingham newspapers—the News, the Age-Herald and the Post—have been scourging the public conscience.

The state legislature passed an anti-mask law. A special grand jury returned flogging indictments against 18 men. The head of the Klan quit abruptly and his successor went to jail for contempt of court for refusing to give the grand jury a list of Klan members.

The American Legion formed a committee of 500 on the heels of the flogging of a Navy veteran, to see to it that law enforcement officers did what they were supposed to do.

Four grand juries in and around the tri-state area around Chattanooga (Alabama, Georgia and Tennessee) have returned indictments against 20 men.

These indictments followed reports that 22 people had been whipped by bands of men, some wearing Klan regalia. One grand jury has undertaken to study Klan influence in the police department.

Law enforcement officers are becoming increasingly resistant to mob demands. A sheriff at Tavares in Lake County, Fla., just last month refused to turn over to a mob two Negro prisoners accused of raping a white woman.

Called National Guard

This same sheriff did not hesitate to ask for National Guard help when mobs terrorized the Negro communities at Groveland, Mascotte and Stuckey's Mill as an aftermath of the crime. Responsible elements in Groveland, foreseeing trouble, loaded scores of Negroes in their cars and carried them to safety outside the county.

In Houston, Miss., when a mob demanded another Negro accused of rape, a deputy sheriff calmly said the prisoner had been carried to another jail for safekeeping.

The attempted rape of a farmer's wife near Nashville, Ga., Aug. 1 set off another mob action in which an innocent Negro was seized. A cool, matter-of-fact sheriff told the crowd:

"You are going to get into more trouble than you'll get out of." He rescued the Negro.

Mayor Yanked Masks

The mayor of little Soperton, Ga., Jim Peterson, yanked the hoods off three Klansmen he claimed were frightening women. For this he received congratulations from President Truman.

Another south Georgia mayor, one-armed C. L. Drake of Iron City, let fly at seven carloads of Klansmen with an automatic shotgun. He claimed they had come to kidnap him for opposing Gov. Herman Talmadge.

Twenty Southern towns, in addition to Alabama, have made it unlawful to wear masks in public. These towns by states are:

Georgia — Atlanta, Iron City, Macon, Valdosta, Columbus, Wrightsville Swainsboro, Gainesville, Moultrie. Tennessee—Knoxville and Chattanooga. Florida—Tallahassee, Bartow, Miami, Miami Beach, South Miami, Miami Shores, Coral Gables and Atlantic Beach.

Citizens Oppose Plan

When the little town of Thomson, Ga., learned that a Klavern had been formed in McDuffie County, 100 residents signed a statement saying:

"It is our earnest hope that our friends will come to see the Klan idea for what we honestly believe it is, a dangerous mistake. . We do not need an organization which operates in concealment."

In Chattanooga, the re-election of a self-avowed Klansman as minister of a little Baptist church prompted 14 members of the congregation to resign.

Judges have been particularly critical of the Klan and hooded lawlessness Criminal Court Judge Raulston Schoolfield in Chattanooga told a jury:

"What right has any man or group to declare themselves the jury, the judge, the sheriff and executioner? For every grievance we have, there is a court of redress. This is one of the most cowardly forms of law violation."

A Stinger Added

Then Judge Schoolfield added a stinger: "We here in the South have a right to run our own affairs. . Yet the people who claim they have a right to pass federal laws have a perfectly sound argument when they say we are not protecting our citizens."

Gov. Fuller Warren of Florida described Klansmen as "hooded hoodlums" and "sheeted jerks." Alabama's Gov. James Folsom said bluntly he had no intention of letting any small bands run that state.

Among non - Southerners the question always arises: Why the Klan?

The original Klan came into being after the Civil War as a political movement to restore the franchise to ex-Confederates and to wrest control of the South from carpetbaggers, scalawags and the Negroes they frequently used as tools.

Seeds Were Planted

Just before the last Yankee soldier moved north in the 1870's, the original Klan disbanded, mission accomplished. In its founding, however, and in the economic plight of the South, the original Klan sowed the seeds that gave rise to the latter-day organizations.

Most students of the Southern scene will not attempt to defend the Klan. They will seek to explain it.

Through the years the fear that the Negro might rise again to political power or become an economic competitor produced a state of mind best described as "keeping the Negro in his place."

This led to the Klan and the Klan's intolerance, in turn, led to intolerance in other fields. Out of ignorance and prejudice grew the belief that Klansmen had the right to pass judgment on all men for all reasons. There are cases on record in which men were whipped simply because of personal antipathy.

These fears are relaxing througnout the South. Since 1930, and with the passage of another world war for freedom, many Southerners have done some honest soul searching. Out of that seeking is emerging, gradually, painfully, a new South.

Southerners Laughing KKK Out, Says Writer

CHICAGO—(ANP)— "The KKK isn't what it use to be," says Washington Post reporter Ben Price in September Negro Digest, "because Southern whites and Negroes alike are laughing the hood-and-sheeters out of existence.

Reporting on recent Klan capers which were jeered into nothingness, Price reports:

"During the Klan parade through the colored district of Gainesville, Georgia, a Negro woman shouted from her portch rocking chair, "Send us your sheets, shite folks, we'll wash 'em." All of the watchers laughed and a flock of Negro children fell in behind he parade drumming loudly on tin pans."

As an example the growing derision whites are heaping on the Klan reporter Price relates this Columbia, S. C. incident in the Negro Digest story:

"Grand Dragon, Dr. Samuel Green told a crowd of Klansmen and curious that unless 'White supremacy is maintained, the day will come when a black buck Negro may ask for your daughter's hand in marriage.'

"A voice o nthe edge of he crowd drawled, 'well, she can always say no can't she?"

Prince concludes:

"After his a stink bomb was hrown into the midst of the Klu Kluxers and police broke up the meeting."

Five Southern States Stung By Hate Gangs

The Rev. George A. Perkins, after he had been flogged by hooded men near Claxton, Ga. The floggers got away.

A new reign of terror is sweeping the South. Last week, near Nashville, Tenn., two homes, almost ready for occupancy, were dynamited. They were to have been occupied by Negroes . . . A minister in Claxton, Ga. was reported lashed fifty times by Klansmen because he advocated equal rights . . . Kluxers fired four crosses in Alabama and set up new chapters in the two Carolina states. The "wheels of justice" turned in courtrooms in Rome, Ga., and Birmingham, Ala., in an effort to convict alleged Ku Kluxers, but defendants were doing a good job of hiding behind invisible hoods.

Man Given 50 Lashes

By FRANK FREEMAN

CLAXTON, Ga.—The Rev. George A. Perkins, 69-year-old carpenter and pastor of three South Georgia churches, was molested and flogged by a band of hooded men three miles from here, The Courier learned this week.

The flogging took place in front of Red Hill Primitive Church (white).

THE MINISTER SAID the hooded men accused him of teaching Negroes that they are as good as whites. He said he received an extra lashing because he was accused of advocating that Negroes should have equal rights and the right to vote.

The Rev. Mr. Perkins has lived in Evans County for twenty years and is a property owner in Claxton, Ga.

Lying in bed, weak from fifty lashes, the minister told a Courier reporter he and his wife had gone to bed and later heard a loud knock on their front door. He said he hesitated to open the door because he heard loud voices outside.

* * *

SUDDENLY, THE DOOR was broken open, he said. A hooded man came into their living room and asked: "Where is George?"

The Rev. Mr. Perkins said he then appeared and asked what the man wanted. The hooded man replied. "We want you." Then another white robed man appeared, snatched the drapery from the door and wrapped it around the minister's head, carried him outside to an automobile and sped away.

After riding about three miles, clad only in his under clothes, the Rev. Mr. Perkins was told to get out of the car. He was thrown on the ground and one man sat on his head and another on his feet while he was lashed forty-five times. The count was kept by a third man.

The Rev. Mr. Perkins said they told him: "We are going to tell you why you are being whipped." The hooded men explained to Perkins: "Some of your color told us you were holding political meetings, teaching your people they are just as good as a white man and they should have equal education and vote."

THE REV. MR. PERKINS said they lashed him additional times and said: "Don't move from there for ten minutes if you don't want to be killed."

The men then asked: "How long will it take you to give us Evans County?"

Perkins, meekly asked for ten days, but the hooded men told him: "That's too damn long, you had better be gone by tomorrow afternoon."

"The hooded men then left the beaten man on the ground and drove off.

The Rev. Mr. Perkins said he waited for more than ten minutes, praying each second of the time, asking God to guide him safely back to his wife and home. He then removed the cloth from his head and found he was in front of Red Hill Primitive Church.

He waded through swamps, pushed his way through high brushes and tramped the snake infested bushes until he reached his home. The minister and his wife have one son who now lives in Washington, D. C.

Perkins is considered a good citizen in Claxton, owns a home at 12 Millen Street, S. W., about 400 feet from the city limit line of Claxton, Ga. He is pastor of New Zion Baptist Church, Bulloch County, Nevil, Ga.; New Bethel Baptist Church, Tatnell County, near Reidsville, Ga., and Pine Hill Baptist Church, Swainsboro, Ga.

HIGH GEORGIA JURIST FLAYS KLAN AGAIN

ATLANTA—(INS)—A Georgia Appeals Court Judge lashed out against the Ku Klux Klan Tuesday as the faceless brotherhood gathered for a cross burning at Stone Mountain Tuesday night.

Judge J. M. C. Townsend assailed the Kluxers as "Hooded Mobsters." He charged they seek to usurp the power of the jurist and jurors.

Dr. Samuel Green, the KKK Grand Dragon, made plans for the public initiation ceremony even while Judge Townsend was speaking before the Atlanta Civitan Club. Judge Townsend warned that the Kluxers jeopardize American liberty. The jurist then cited cases in which he charged the Klan undertook to "try a man behind closed doors and in his absence, and then go out in their sheets and punish him by brutal beatings and in some cases death."

The State Appeals Court Judge concluded that it is no excuse for a man to belong to the Ku Klux simply because he claims not to know better. He declared:

"We have no place in this country for religious hatred and intolerance or for preachments which cause one group to rise up against another."

Wizard Revokes Klan Charters

Dr. Samuel Green, Imperial Wizard of the Georgia Association of Klans, yesterday revealed he had served notice on three Klaverns that they were presently not associated with his organization.

He cancelled the charter of the Klavern at Chattanooga, Tenn., after declaring the Klan there had been on probation since April.

He also suspended the provisional set-up of Klaverns at Trenton and Lafayette, Ga., for violations of other provisions of Klan discipline.

This action follows an edict from Green which forbids Klan members to wear masks on public roads and streets upon penalty of banishment from the organization.

Klan Back Tax Lien for $9,332 Is Filed by U. S.

By ALBERT RILEY

The Federal Government filed a tax lien against the Association of Georgia Klans late yesterday for $9,332.49 in unpaid income tax assessments for the years 1946, 1947 and 1948.

Filed in U. S. District Court here by Marion H. Allen, U. S. Collector of Revenue for Georgia, the lein lists income taxes due from the Association of Georgia Klans totaling 1,466.13 for 1946, $3,051.19 for 1947 and $4,815.17 for 1948.

The papers were served by an Internal Revenue agent on a representative of the Klan at Room 309 in the Peters Building, where the late Dr. Samuel Green maintained his offices.

Levies also were served on all Atlanta banks to prevent the Klan from withdrawing any funds the Association might have on deposit. This indicated revenue authorities were aware of the existence of Klan assets in the form of bank accounts.

Filing of the lien came less than a week after the death of Dr. Green, long-time Klan leader who recently was elevated from the office of Grand Dragon to that of Imperial Wizard.

The figure of $9,332.49 which Uncle Sam contends the Klan owes includes back taxes and penalties. Computation was made on the basis of corporation income tax rates of approximately 22 to 23 percent.

Income tax experts thus figure the Association of Georgia Klans' net taxable income for the three-year period at approximately $30,000. This would be exclusive of salaries paid out, and Dr. Green reportedly drew a sizable salary from the organization.

The income is believed to have been derived from initiation fees and the sale of Klan regalia.

Asked about the lien, Allen said that "it becomes my duty as a Government official to collect all Federal taxes that might be assessed against any and all Georgia taxpayers, regardless of race, creed or color.

"I have exactly the same attitude toward this case as I would have in any similar matter," he added, "but in the collection of taxes it has been my policy, strictly adhered to, to show the taxpayer every consideration and courtesy, and to accord to him everything he is entitled to under the law, and by the same token to use my best efforts to see that the Government receives all it is entitled to under the law."

Allen said the Association of Georgia Klans has not filed any income tax returns except for withholding and social security on one or two employees.

Of the late Dr. Green, however, Allen said that "taxably speaking, I always found Dr. Green frank, open and co-operative."

A similar income tax lein for a much larger amount—$685,355—was filed by Allen in 1946 against the Ku Klux Klan, but that apparently nation-wide organization was suspended or dissolved by James A. Colescott, then Imperial Wizard, and the Federal Government could find no assets and thus did not collect. A few years ago Dr. Green revived the Klan, organizing it into the Association of Georgia Klans, which he said was a voluntary, unincorporated organization with no connection with the Ku Klux Klan, Inc.

It appeared possible that the Federal action yesterday might lead to the discovery of some of the assets of the old Ku Klux Klan and to similar action against other Klan groups in Georgia and other States. An organization known as the Original Southern Klans, Inc., was chartered in Muscogee County last year.

The Association of Georgia Klans was branded as subversive organization in April of this year by U. S. Atty. Gen. Tom Clark, who recently was appointed to the U. S. Supreme Court by President Truman.

Klan Dragon Bans Masks and Hoods

Atlanta, Aug. 8 (U.P.).—Dr. Samuel Green, Grand Dragon of the Ku Klux Klan, today ordered Klan members to stop wearing masks and white hoods "anywhere in the United States."

Green warned that violation of his edict would bring swift banishment to any member of the secret order.

Meanwhile, in the little southwest Georgia farming town of Iron City, where Mayor C. L. Drake and a party of friends scattered a 16-car caravan of Klansmen with gunfire early yesterday, a Klan spokesman boasted that the Klan will ride again on Saturday night.

Klavern Is Defiant

James Bearch, identified as Grand Cyclops of the Iron City Klavern, issued a blistering statement calling Mayor Drake "a liar" for saying the Klan was responsible for violence in the area. He bluntly challenged the mayor by announcing the Klan will parade through Iron City again Saturday night.

Green's order stripping Klansmen of their masks and hoods—a move he had fought stubbornly when it was urged in the State Legislature—was prompted by the current wave of nightriding violence in the South. Green has maintained these masked and hooded mobs are not Klansmen.

"Certain irresponsible persons," Green said with his order today, "have used what appeared to be Klan robes and masks to commit certain unlawful acts."

Second Unmasking

It was the second time in 10 years the Klan had received such an unmasking order. Following a wave of violence in the 1930s, James Colescott, then Imperial Wizard, instructed members to cease wearing masks or visors.

Green disclaims any part of the southwest Georgia Klan group mixed up in the Iron City feud. The Grand Dragon has charged in the past that the other group is "an offshoot of hotheads."

Mayor Drake was unavailable for comment on the Klan challenge, but he was expected to take once more what he has termed precautionary measures.

When a band he identified as Klansmen slipped up on his home recently through a cow pasture, Drake blazed away with a shotgun, and scattered the intruders.

Accused Of "Talking Too Much"

Still Suffering From Effects Of July 12 Assault

By C. W. GREENLEA

ATLANTA, Georgia — (SNS) — A masked mob of Ku Klux Klansmen, accusing a Southwest Georgia matron of "talking too much" about an alleged affair between a white man and a Negro woman, pulled her from her Alamo home and beat her unmercifullly, it came to light Saturday.

The Negro woman, Mrs. Mamie White, is still suffering from the effects of the beating which occurred on July 12, according to information given to officials of the Atlanta Branch, NAACP Saturday.

Georgia State NAACP investigator, Rev. A. L. Brewster of Dublin, Georgia, visited the woman and declared that she perhaps has been injured permanently from the brutal ordeal. The beating was not revealed earlier because of the great fear that seized the community, it was believed.

FBI CALLED IN

C. L. Harper, Atlanta NAACP Branch president and Dr. William Boyd, state president, stated that the Federal Bureau of Investigation has been called in to investigte the case.

Mrs. White declared that members of the hooded gang dragged her out into the yard while others inside forced a cover over her husband's head and kept him in the house.

It was not revealed whether she could identify any of the hoodlums, but both Mr. and Mrs. White have lived in the community for practically their entire lives.

GOOD CITIZENS

The Whites have a reputation of being good citizens, prominent in the local Baptist church, and are said to own about fifty acres of land. Some citizens believe that jealousy over the land may have led to the incident.

Dr. U. S. Johnson, president of the Georgia State Medical Association made a physical examination and treated the mob victim, making the following report in part: "Bruises over the right kidney with injury to the kidney caused by some sort of instrument. The kidney injury has caused symptoms of head pains, frequent micturition, dizziness, pains down the right leg and nervousness."

Mrs. White also displayed bruises about the arms, to the N. A. A. C. P. agent.

Alamo, Georgia residents told of Mrs. White's experience to Negro leaders at Glenwood, where an N. A. A. C. P. chapter is partially active.

The incident came to light, ironically, on the day that newspapers released statements of Governor Herman Talmadge that he contemplated "no unmasking" action against the Ku Klux Klan, because "I have heard of no lawlessness in the Klan." He gave the Klan a clean bill of health although only last week the klan received much publicity for allegedly having attempted to attack Mayor J. L. Drake of Iron City, Alabama has

ne C flight.

Ann Gregory of Gary, Ind., wo the women's title with a 36-hol total of 177. Margory Cabell, Ind napolis. Ind., was second, and M

Core of the Klan Problem

Down in Wheeler County Marvin B. Anderson, 40, says that in Georgia a person is better off to join the Klan than to depend on law enforcement officers for protection. Atlanta Ga Constitution

We don't know Mr. Anderson, who is married and has three children, but he has hit the nail on the head in a general sort of way. Sat. 8-13-49

He reports he asked the sheriff for protection against a mob of masked men, about 30 in number, who came on his property, onto his porch, and threatened him. He got his gun and the mob left.

He then says he appealed to the sheriff and the sheriff said he had no authority to prevent the mob from coming on his porch and threatening him.

We would like to ask the sheriff one question. Had the mob been composed of Negroes in masks would he have refused to act because of lack of authority? Or is it only where the Klan is concerned that he has no authority to prevent a mob from trespassing and threatening a citizen?

There is the core of the Klan problem, all neatly presented by the farce in Wheeler.

—Sketch from Wide World.

SAMUEL ROPER
. . . succeeds Green.

Drive Opens to Unite Klans

Georgian Takes Lead in Project

Times-Picayune

(The Associated Press)

Atlanta—The long anticipated move to unite all Southern Klans is under way.

It's a strong movement, spurred by able organizers, and Klansmen are confident the chances that it will succeed within the next year are good. Sun. 10-23-49

After the death of Dr. Samuel Green, imperial wizard of the Association of Georgia Klans, many believed the Klan would succumb to an internal struggle for power. New Orleans

There were many reports that the Georgia Klan, largest and strongest of them all, was split over a successor to Dr. Green. But Samuel Roper, former head of the Georgia bureau of investigation, soon emerged in Dr. Green's shoes.

It is Roper, assisted by a Baptist minister, Lycurgus Spinks, lately imperial emperor of the knights of the Ku Klux Klan, who is the leader of the movement to draw all Southern Klans into one camp as the Associated Klans of America. Ga

Two Combined

People who live outside the South are apt to forget there is more than one Klan in the South. This has been so since the post World War I Klan was broken in the 1930s.

Sometimes the Klan situation is more than slightly confusing but here, insofar as is known, is the present situation:

The Associated Klans of America was formed by uniting Roper's Georgia organization and the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan formed by Spinks at Montgomery, Ala., last summer.

At the time he brought the knights into alliance with the Georgia group, Spinks claimed he had a membership of 265,000.

Wizard Roper maintains that the present membership of the combined organization is "in the hundreds of thousands."

Then there is the Southern Knights of the Ku Klux Klan with headquarters at Tallahassee, Fla., whose spokesman is Bill Hendrix.

Hendrix describes himself as the "national adjutant" and claims members in 11 Southern states. He says he is subordinate to two anonymous men identified only as "Imperial Emperor Samuel II" and "Imperial Wizard 4-006800."

Least Known

A third group is the Federated Ku Klux Klans, Inc., with headquarters in Birmingham, Ala., and headed by William Hugh Morris, a contractor.

Morris recently went to jail for 67 days until he produced a list of Klan members as part of an investigation into floggings by masked men in and around Birmingham. He claims a membership of 30,000.

The fourth—and the one about which least is known—is that of the Original Southern Klans, Inc.

This Klan came into being at Columbus, Ga., and seemed to be composed of two offshoots, the Columbus and Manchester Klaverns, of the Association of Georgia Klans.

The spokesman for this group for a time was a young ex-soldier, Alton Pate. After a brief flurry of excitement over its formation, the Klan closed its offices and apparently disappeared.

Bares Secession

There is some suspicion that the Original Southern Klans, or part of it, may have joined with the Florida group.

Indeed, it was later established that the Klansmen who paraded through Tallahassee to the annoyance of Gov. Fuller Warren were from Georgia and were members of the Original Southern Klans.

In recent months, Hendrix has made declarations which involve towns in the territory once claimed by the Georgia group as citadels. It may be that the two Klans are one and the same under a different name, with a new headquarters and a new spokesman.

LOITERING CHARGE STILL AGAINST KKK

Daily World Atlanta, Ga. Wed. 6-15-49

SOPERTON, Ga. —(INS)— Charges of loitering were still pending Tuesday against three Ku Klux Klansmen, who were unmasked by the Soperton, Georgia mayor.

Charges of disorderly conduct were dismissed. Mayor Pro Tem James Waller, who acted as judge and jury in the case, said Tuesday he will "decide what to do about the loitering charges after I get the men's testimony from the court reporter." Wed. 6-15-49

The disorderly conduct charges were dismissed Monday in a recorders court for lack of evidence.

Mayor Jim Peterson personally yanked the masks from Joe Greene, Malcolm Braddy, and John Edge. Only Greene was tried, but decisions in his case would apply to the other two.

Meanwhile, Police Chief M. D. Ware said he intends to bring still another charge against the trio. He said he will charge them with carrying concealed weapons.

Klan Brings Terror to Town in Georgia

Afro-American

DONALDSVILLE, Ga. (NNPA) —Night-riding Klansmen were not only charged last Tuesday with an attempt to kidnap the Mayor of nearby Iron City, but also were accused of other activities in Seminole County. City officials reported that a white tenant farmer who rented from a colored owner was ordered to move off the land after his crops were planted. Sat. 8-6-49

The white man received a note signed by the Klan and a cross was burned in the front yard of the colored owner. A parade of hooded Klansmen passed through here two or three weeks ago.

Mayor C. L. Drake said he had used an automatic shotgun to drive off seven or eight cars loaded with robed Klansmen. He said Klan members had tried to defeat him for office because he opposed Gov. Herman Talmadge. He added that 20 or 30 automobiles, loaded with Klansmen, drove through Barbertown, a colored settlement in Iron City, on July 16, and fired some shots. He said colored people were so intimidated that they locked their doors and windows and some of them stayed in their homes for several days afraid to go to work.

Robeson Effigy Hanged, Big Cross Burned

Constitution State News Service

VALDOSTA—A huge cross was burned just outside the city limits of Valdosta last night, and a crowd of curious who hurried to the scene found a painstakingly made effigy of Paul Robeson hanging from a tree near by. No persons who might have fired the cross were seen.

Earlier, the Associated Press reported that by the edict of "His Majesty," Samuel, II, and Imperial Wizard 4-006800, the nation is in for a week of cross-burning.

Anyhow, that's what one Bill Hendrix, of Tallahassee, Fla., who describes himself as adjutant for the Southern and North Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, said via "imperial" proclamation.

Hendrix declared the crosses would be burned in a crusade against Communism and to give support to the veterans of Peekskill, N. Y., involved in a riot last Saturday, over a Paul Robeson concert.

The imperial ruling directed the first of the crosses to be burned at Valdosta.

On a fence near the Valdosta cross was a crudely lettered sign stating "We protest Paul Robeson and other Communists." In one corner of the sign was a small cross and the letters KKK. in another, a skull and cross bones.

Georgia Klan leader Samuel Roper said he had not called for any such action in the Georgia KKK. "I don't know anything about any crosses being burned in Valdosta," he said in reply to a question. "Must have been that Florida bunch."

Accused Of "Talking Too Much"

Still Suffering From Effects Of July 12 Assault

By C. W. GREENLEA

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The incident came to light, ironically, on the day that newspapers released statements of Governor Herman Talmadge that he contemplated no "unmasking" action against the Ku Klux Klan, because "I have heard of no lawlessness in the Klan." He gave the Klan a clean bill of health although only last week the klan received much publicity for allegedly having attempted to attack Mayor J. L. Drake of Iron City. Alabama has enacted an anti-Klan mask law and at present several Klan members and the state leader are under indictment for floggins around Birmingham.

One Nightrider Shot

Gunfire Routs Klan Parade In Southern Georgia Hamlet

Iron City, Ga., Aug. 7 (U.P.)—A nightriding Klansman was wounded early today when citizens of this south Georgia hamlet of up a Ku Klux Klan parade with gunfire.

Police Chief Hubert Miller said townspeople opened fire on a 16-car caravan of robed Klansmen that passed through here shortly after midnight.

He said one Klansman was slightly hurt in the fusillade of bullets. Another nightrider was arrested when State patrolmen and county officers arrived from nearby Donalsonville as the procession reached the outskirts of town.

Last week Iron City passed a city ordinance against parades or assemblies of masked men. Miller said the Klansmen in last night's demonstration were robed but their faces were uncovered.

The anti-Klan ordinance was a personal triumph for Mayor C. L. Drake, who had said he barricaded his home and fought off a mob of hooded attackers last month.

Miller said "10 or 12" shots were fired from pistols and shotguns as the Klansmen rode into the ambush.

He said the streets were practically deserted when the parade arrived.

The police chief said he called for help when the shooting started. Three patrol cars and a car of county officers from Donaldsville answered the call.

Miller said Sheriff C. L. Chandler arested one of the Klansmen for carrying a concealed weapon. The sheriff, however, refused to reveal the nightriders' identity or otherwise discuss the incident.

"I'll do my talking in court," he said.

Miller said he did not learn the name of the wounded Klansman and did not believe that he was hurt seriously enough to require more than first aid treatment.

Some of the cars were damaged by bullets, he added. The automobiles bore Georgia and Florida license plates, according to Miller.

Klan Protest To Robeson Is Weak

TALLAHASSEE, Fla.—(AP)—A Ku Klux Klan non-violence protest against left-wing singer Paul Robeson "and Communism" had gathered little force yesterday but its spokesman said it soon will.

"National Adjutant" Bill Hendrix could count but six flaming crosses in a nationwide show of pyrotechnics decreed Saturday by "his majesty" Samuel II and Imperial Wizard 4-006800.

But, said the "spokesman under the seal" of the "Southern and Northern Knights of the KKK;"

"This is only the beginning. The crosses will begin to burn north of the Mason-Dixon line as soon as the order gets through."

Adjutant Hendrix had reports of displays Saturday night only in the vicinities of Tallahassee, Jacksonville, Crawfordville, Quincy and Monticello, Fla., and Valdosta. Ga.

Each oil-soaked and fired cross, he reported. was accompanied by a sign reading: "We protest Paul Robeson and Communism." Additionally, an effigy of the Negro singer was tied to a tree by a roadside at the Valdosta burning.

This extra frill was decreed, Hendrix explained, because "Valdosta was the birthplace of our organization."

The adjutant nastened to reiterate that "We don't believe in violence—floggings, beating, threats or anything like that. We don't hate the Negroes."

Hendrix said his outfit is a reincarnation of the "old W. J. Simmons KKK, founded in Atlanta in 1915 and disbanded in 1933."

He claimed at least three units in New York City and others "perhaps" at Scarsdale and White Plains, N. Y., "New Jersey and the Detroit area."

"We were stronger in the old days in Detroit than in Atlanta,' he added.

Green Lifts Klan Mask, Kicks Out Two Klaverns

BY ROBERT MOOREFIELD

ATLANTA, Aug. 9 — (AP) — In a round of decisive action, Grand Dragon Samuel Green yanked the masks from Georgia Ku Kluxers and banned three Klan Klaverns for "the best interests of everybody concerned."

The imperial wizard's drastic edicts yesterday came in the wake of a shooting affray in South Georgia in which Klansmen were peppered by shotgun and pistol shot, and climaxed recent outbreaks of night riding terrorism along the Georgia-Tennessee border.

* * *

GREEN, SOFT-SPOKEN and mild-mannered leader of the Association of Georgia Klans last night officially banned Klaverns at Chattanooga, Tenn., and at Trenton and LaFayette, Ga

All members of the three Klaverns, he told The Chattanooga Times by telephone, have been ordered to turn in their Klan regalia.

"They know who they are," the imperial wizard said cryptically.

"If there's evidence to show that these Klaverns are not responsible for the things for which they have been banned," Green declared, "of course, I'm not going to punish innocent persons."

* * *

THE KLAVERN at Chattanooga was banned, he added, because it has been named in charges of terroristic invasion of churches, lashings and armed intimidation.

At Trenton, Green continued, Klansmen have been linked with a clique facing both state and federal charges in the flogging of seven Negroes.

The sweeping decree against the Lafayette group stemmed from a parade there the night of July 30 without authorization from local officials.

The unmasking of Georgia Ku Kluxers was announced by Green yesterday. He said he didn't want his Klansmen to be blamed for the rowdyism of others.

Green asserted that his own Klansmen were not mixed up in the week-end shooting melee at Iron City, Ga., where a Ku Klux motorcade was met by a burst of gunfire. The trouble there, he said, was caused by a "Bolshevik" group operating out of Columbus.

* * *

AS AN AFTERMATH of that peppery set-to, in which a night rider was slightly wounded, charges and counter charges have brought about a bristling feud between city officials and Klansmen and has branched out to include the wives of the Iron City mayor and the local Klan cyclops.

It was gunfire from friends of Mayor C. L. Drake of Iron City that greeted the night riders in Sunday's pre-dawn sultry darkness.

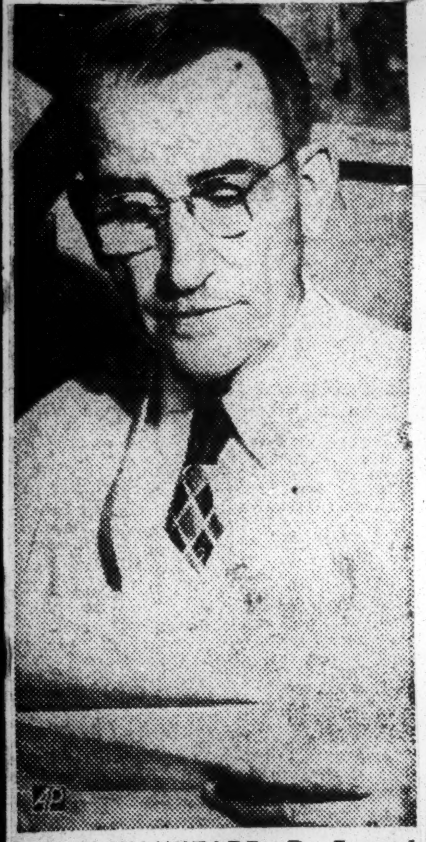
Cyclops J. A. Beard, Jr., swore to a warrant charging Drake with attempted murder after th. mayor had charged Bill Hendrix, a Klan agent from Tallahassee, Fla., with assault with attempt to murder.

Then the wives stepped in and took out peace warrants against each other's husband. The cyclop's wife swore out a warrant against the mayor and the

mayor's wife swore out a warrant against the cyclops.

Justice of the Peace J. E. Wheeler called it even by slapping a $500 peace bond against both men.

Meanwhile, Cyclops Beard promised another Klan parade at Iron City Saturday night.



KU KLUX WIZARD—Dr. Samuel Green, imperial wizard of the Association of Georgia Klans, sits in office at Atlanta and reads his edict to banish the wearing of masks by members in public. He said members would be banned from the Klan if they appeared "on any street, road or highway wearing a mask or visor." (Associated Press photo.)

Bullets Rout Klan Parade; S. W. Ga. Night Rider Shot In Mask-Banning Hamlet

Constitution 8-8-49 Atlanta, Ga.

IRON CITY—(AP)—Robed nightriders and townspeople swapped gunfire in a brief but hectic renewal of Ku Klux Klan strife yesterday, Mayor C. L. Drake reported.

The tires of several automobiles bearing Klansmen were flattened by bullets. One Klansman was said to have been slightly wounded in the flare-up just after midnight.

The Mayor said nobody on his side was hit but "some of the bullets whizzed by within five feet of me."

The Mayor, who is one-armed and an old enemy of the Klan said the battle broke out as 12 or 15 automobiles of Klansmen rolled into the town at the eerie near-midnight hour.

The Highway Patrol reported from its Atlanta headquarters that the paraders were unmasked. Drake, however, said he thought some of them were—in "direct" violation of the town's recently-enacted unmasking ordinance.

He said he did not shoot but "some of my friends did" and said the gunfire promptly was returned.

In the wake of the gunfire came a welter of charges and counter-charges.

The Mayor reported someone had sworn a warrant against him charging shooting at another and he, in turn, had had a Ku Klux Klan official charged with assault with intent to murder.

Drake identified the Klan functionary as Bill Hendrix, of Tallahassee, Fla., "acting agent of the Grand Dragon of Florida."

He said he and friends chased Hendrix at high speed to nearby Dothan, Ala., and had him jailed on a warrant issued in Iron City. He added that he expected later to bring charges against what he called the "cyclops of Iron City."

Warring with the Ku Klux Klan is an old story with the Mayor of this little Southwest Georgia town. Only recently he announced he had foiled a Klan kidnap attempt with a volley from an automatic shotgun.

Sheriff C. L. Chandler said at near-by Donalsonville he was "ashamed of what happened." He added that he did not want to talk about it, but he did say he had "warrants against two white fellows."

He said one of the men is from Tallahassee, Fla. He declined to give any names or charges.

Another officer, who insisted that he remain anonymous, said: "It's a mess. Everybody seems to be trying to get a warrant against everybody else."

He would not elaborate.

The patrol said the shooting was all over when its troopers arrived. It reported the robed Klansmen were busy patching up their tires in preparation to move on.

The report said most of the 15 or 20 cars in the parade bore license plates from near-by Florida. It estimated about 50 members of the hooded order were in the convoy. Several of the machines were described as peppered with shotgun pellets.

The official report did not say who may have fired the shots. It said the investigation was in the hands of the sheriff.

The Mayor created a sensation by announcing nearly two weeks ago that Klansmen had tried to kidnap him because he had opposed Gov. Herman Talmadge politically.

He said two or three were slipping up to his house through a cow pasture about 3 a. m. Sunday, July 17, and he let loose with his shotgun.

He reported he fired 12 or 14 times and the men returned his fire. The range was too great, he added, for any damage on either side.

Grand Dragon Samuel Green, of the Association of Georgia Klans, said in Atlanta his order did not operate in South Georgia. No other Klan spokesman was available for comment on the incident.

South Georgians Shoot Klan Out From Under Its Hoods

ATLANTA, Aug. 8—(AP)—Georgia's Ku Klux Klan was ordered to unmask today by "imperial edict" of it's Wizard, after south Georgians had gone gunning for robed night riders.

Wizard Samuel Green said henceforth members of his Association of Georgia Klans would junk their hoods to keep the Klan from being blamed for the acts of others.

Green's order followed a shooting scrape in Iron City, Ga., in which the town's mayor, C. L. Drake, and a group of friends swapped shots with a motorcade of robed Klansmen.

The "Imperial Wizard" said his organization was not involved in the affair, and blamed the incident on a "Bolshevik" group operating out of Columbus.

Meanwhile, Mayor Drake and Klansmen found themselves involved in charges and counter-charges.

The Klansmen left Iron City after midnight Saturday, pursued by flying lead—and subsequently, by the mayor.

Mayor Drake raced 38 miles to Dothan, Ala., sometimes at a speed of 100 miles per hour, after a Klan official.

Mayor Himself Charged

In Dothan he had the man booked as Bill Hendrix, of Tallahassee, Fla, arrested on a warrant charging assault with intent to murder. Hendrix later was released under a $500 bond.

The mayor returned to his home town and there was subjected to a warrant charging attempted murder. The warrant was taken out by James Beard, who identified himself as the Iron City klavern's cyclops.

Beard charged the mayor fired at him as the Klansmen held a pre-announced parade.

To Parade Again

Cyclops Beard denied any of the robed paraders were guilty of violence, and challengingly announced that another parade will be held next Saturday night.

Both the mayor and the cyclops were put under $500 peace bonds after a fiery hearing before Justice of Peace J. E. Wheeler.

Wheeler reported Beard and one of Drake's witnesses almost came to blows during the hearing. He said Sheriff C. L. Chandler had to restrain the witness.

The Iron City shooting spree began when 12 or 15 cars loaded with robed Klansmen rode into the little town early Sunday.

Drake, longtime foe of the Klan, declared bullets whizzed within five feet of him while he scribbled down auto tag numbers.

Georgia Mayor Routs Klansmen

Fires Shotgun At Robed Men

Courier-Journal

Donaldsonville, Ga., July 26 (AP)—Night-riding Klansmen were accused today of attempting to kidnap the Mayor of near-by Iron City.

Louisville, Ky.

Mayor C. L. Drake told of using an automatic shotgun to drive off seven or eight cars loaded with robed Klansmen. He said Klan members had tried to defeat him for office because he was opposed to Governor Herman Talmadge.

Drake said today there had been persistent efforts to intimidate him through phone calls and letters. He said he had received letters advising him to leave the county, and that the letters had been turned over to federal authorities.

The alleged kidnap attempt came about 3 a.m. July 17, Drake said. Klansmen parked their cars near his home.

Wed. 7-27-49

'They were slipping up on the house through a cow pasture—two or three of them—and I grabbed my gun," he said.

Drake fired 12 or 14 shots, but the men were too far away to be harmed by the shotgun blasts. The robed men returned the fire, he said.

Iron City is in the southwestern corner of Georgia near the Alabama and Florida lines.

Drake said all the 30 or 40 members of the local Klan were pro-Talmadge. Governor Talmadge, advocate of white supremacy, said recently he and his late father Eugene Talmadge, were the only two Governors of Georgia that had not been members of the Klan. Former Governor Ellis Arnall later said he'd never belonged.

In Atlanta, Dr. Samuel Green, Klan grand dragon, said the Association of Georgia Klans, which he heads, does not operate in the south Georgia area. He said a Klan organization with headquarters at Columbus, Ga., might have been resopnsible. There was no comment from Columbus Klan leaders.

Louisville, Ky.

Drake has been Mayor of Iron City nine years. The town has a population of about 500.

"These hoodlums have even brought in voters from out of town to vote against me," Drake said. 'I refuse to leave or to be intimidated."

Georgia's Civil Rights Trial Sets Up Klan Power Question

BY BEM PRICE

ROME, Ga., Dec. 3—(AP)—A mass civil rights trial has raised the question of whether the Ku Klux Klan can set up and enforce moral standards without legal interference.

The question has become a major side issue in the trial of 10 Dade County men in the case of seven flogged Negroes.

For seven days U. S. Dist. Atty J. Ellis Mundy, sought to show that the 10 conspired to have the Negroes arrested falsely, seized and flogged by Klansmen.

By way of showing conspiracy, or "concert of action," Mundy placed three white witnesses on the stand in the District Court to tell of threats made the night of April 2—the night the Negroes were whipped.

* * *

EACH TOLD a tale of sharp raps on the door and the appearance of white robed and hooded men with stern warnings.

Mrs. John Lee Shaw was told that a man named Henry Gifford had been hanging around too much during the six months' absence of her husband.

Sure, she said, Gifford came around often to feed her six foxhounds which she couldn't afford to keep fed herself and had tried to sell and couldn't.

* * *

WILLIAM KELLY got a warning to sober up, stop fighting with his wife and stop "laying out" from work.

Kelly admitted freely that he drank; in fact, got drunk. He said too, that he fought with his wife but he denied firmly that he neglected her.

The third witness was an aged housewife, Mrs. Alice Taylor, who said the hooded men came around in search of her son-in-law, Jim Broom, and nearly frightened her out of her wits.

Mrs. Taylor said she had no idea why Klansmen would be coming around to see Broom.

Defense Atty. Frank Gleason cross-examined the witnesses so vigorously on their private lives on whether the Klansmen threatened them directly with bodily harm that Federal Judge Frank A. Hooper intervened.

physically able person the opportunity to earn basic needs."

Rhinelanders and Palatine Germans are opening their carnival season far ahead of other nations.

The last few days before Lent—carnival to most Europeans—is here only the climax of months of organized gaiety in which Christmas and New Year are high spots.

* * *

COLOGNE GIVES the customary signal for the Rhineland revels to begin. The date before World War I was Jan. 1, but since then it has been Nov. 11. What we made a day of solemn remembrance, the Germans made a day of festival commemorating the flight of the Hohenzollerns and the inception of the republic. The people started celebrating on that first Armistice Day and apparently went right on till Lent.

Here in this ancient capital of the Palatinate, rival to Cologne, thousands of boys, girls and grownups marched in a paper-lantern parade at dusk last Sunday. Some say this lantern procession is a survival of the old pagan festival that marked the advent of Winter. The marchers still sing songs about the moon and stars.

Shopkeepers are ready with every wile to lure deutschmarks into cash registers.

2 DEFENDANTS DISMISSED IN FLOGGING TRIAL

BY CARL WIEGMAN
[Chicago Tribune Press Service]

Rome, Ga., Dec. 2—Federal Judge Frank A. Hooper today dismissed two of the 12 defendants in the Dade county flogging trial.

The judge acted on a defense motion for acquittal for all the defendants on the ground that the evidence presented by the government was insufficient to sustain a conviction.

Those released were John Wilkins, 59, city recorder of Trenton Ga., and L. C. Spears, 57, a salesman and a former postmaster of Trenton. They were charged along with 10 other defendants, of conspiring to violate the civil rights of seven Negroes who were beaten by a mob of hooded Ku Klux Klansmen last April 2.

Sherif Among Defendants

Among the defendants remaining on trial are Sherif John W Lynch of Dade county and three of his deputies.

Reviewing the government's case, Defense Atty. Frank Gleason told the court that the only evidence against Wilkins was that he was a member of the klan. The only evidence against Spears Gleason said, was that his automobile was seen in the parade of cars returning from the scene of the floggings.

Denies Link to Klan

After Spears and Wilkins had been dismissed, Defendant Woodrow Daniel, an automobile body repairman for a Chattanooga firm, took the stand and swore he had never been a klan member and had never taken part in any klan demonstrations.

He said that on the afternoon of April 2 he and his family went to visit his father on an Alabama farm and did not reutrn until the next evening. Daniel's wife, Alice, told the same story.

Following testimony by the Daniels, the trial was recessed until Monday.

Klan Linked To Floggings In Rome Trial

By BEM PRICE

ROME— (AP) —The Ku Klux Klan yesterday was woven into the trial of the 12 accused in a civil rights case of seven whipped Negroes.

Both the Government and the defense brought the Klan in as perinent, though Federal Judge Frank A. Hooper admonished both that the Klan was not on trial.

Dade County Sheriff John W. Lynch, three of his deputies and eight private citizens are charged with conspiracy to violate the Negroes' civil rights.

The Government, through U. S. District Attorney J. Ellis Mundy and Special Assistant Raymond Martin, is seeking to prove that a Klan parade, the burning of two crosses and the flogging of the Negroes April 2, were all related incidents.

A Government witness, Walter Arp, of Rossville, self-identified Cyclops of the Seventh Klan Province, identified two of the defendants, Truman Purcell and Terrel T. Wheeler, as Klansmen.

Arp said Purcell was head of the provisional Klavern of Dade County and Wheeler was Secretary.

In addition, Arp told the District Court, he remembered reinstating a third defendant, Trenton City Recorder John Wilkins, as a member and that he had seen a fourth, Sheriff's Deputy William Hartline, at a Klan meeting.

Defense Attorney Frank Gleason sought to show that Arp was mistaken in identifying Wilkins as a reinstated Klan member and that the Klan was a nebulous organization without any real existence in Dade County.

Klan Wizard Denies Beating Charge

ROME, GA., Nov. 23—(AP)—Ku Klux Klan Imperial Wizard Samuel Roper today denied his outfit has a Klavern in Dade County, Georgia, scene of the beating of seven Negroes.

Roper testified the U. S. District Court trial of 12 men charged with conspiring to violate the Negroes' civil rights.

The testimony by the head of the Association of Georgia Klans and the Associated Klans of America came after Walter Arp, self-identified cyclops of the Seventh Klan Province, said there was a provisional Klavern in the county.

The government is seeking to show that the beating of the Negroes, a Klan parade and the burning of two crosses, all on the night of April 2, are related incidents.

Call Jury For Flogging Trial

ROME, Ga.— First criminal trial to be heard in the November session of U. S. Court here will be the Government's case against John W. Lynch, sheriff of Dade County, his three deputies and eight others charged with conspiring to violate the civil rights of Negroes.

They were indicted by a special jury last July, for flogging Negroes near Hooker, Ga., last April 2. There were 50 to 75 figures in Klan disguise involved.

At least 49 witnesses, including Samuel Roper, Imperial Wizard of the Association of Georgia Klans, have been subpoenaed to appear before the court.

Forty six Georgians have been issued jury summonses for the session which opens Monday. Judge Frank Hooper will preside, and U. S. District Atty. Ellis Mundy will present the Government's case.

Audit Ordered On Klan Books

ATLANTA, GA., Nov. 22—(AP)—White-sheeted Klansmen, planning new consolidation of their forces, had orders today to bring in their books for income tax auditing.

Klan spokesmen contend the robed order is a charitable and benevolent organization and exempt from taxes. The government, unconvinced, has tapped Klan tills for several thousand dollars of back income taxes.

Subpoenaes were issued by Marion H. Allen, income tax collector, for the books of Macon, Augusta and Atlanta Klan Klaverns. Allen already has filed tax liens against the Klaverns and said he had uncovered Klan bank accounts and levied on them in Macon and Augusta.

Back taxes claimed from the groups range from $1,123 to $3,470.

Allen also reported the collection of $17,000 in back income taxes from the headquarters here of the Association of Georgia Klans and some $40,000 from the estate of the late Dr. Samuel Green, Klan grand dragon.

Samuel Roper, who succeeded Green, disclosed plans today for consolidation of Alabama and Georgia Klan groups. He said a working agreement had been reached with the Federated Klans of Alabama, uniting the two largest Klans in the South. He added that the agreement eventually would lead to consolidation.

The working agreement, Roper said, was reached Sunday at a conference with William Hugh Morris, Birmingham contractor and head of the Alabama Klan.

Roper said today he would like to see test suits brought to determine if the Klan is liable for taxes. If the courts disagree with the Klan stand that it is charitable and benevolent, "we'll pay off," Roper added.

Defense Accuses Government of Politics For Bringing 12 to Trial in Negro Flogging

ROME, Ga., Nov. 22 (AP)—The defense accused the Government today of playing Democratic party politics by bringing to trial twelve men in the case of seven flogged Negroes.

All twelve, including John W. Lynch, Dade County Sheriff, and three of his deputies, are on trial in United States District Court for conspiracy to violate the Negroes' civil rights.

The trial opened today after Judge Frank A. Hooper brushed aside two delaying motions by thte defense.

A jury was selected from a thirty-five man panel that included two Negroes. Six members of the panel admitted they were or had ben members of the Ku Klux Klan. Five were rejected, but the sixth, James Enfield Berry, became one of two alternate jurors. Both Negroes were rejected.

The defense attorney, Frank Gleason, said it would be shown that, not only did the Government have the wrong men in court, but that the accusations were a matter of politics.

"We expect to show beyond a reasonable doubt," Mr. Gleason declared, "that in 1948 Dade County was the scene of a most bitter political battle.

"We expect to show that this political battle was waged and that the prosecution was inspired, conceived and born in it."

Mr. Gleason asserted that the charges were brought on by the fact that Mr. Lynch, an independent candidate, defeated the regular Democratic party candidate for Sheriff in the general election.

United States Attorney J. Ellis Mundy said the Government would show that the Sheriff and the three deputies went to the home of Momie Clay April 2 and arrested seven Negro men "without excuse or process of law, without reasonable cause or probable cause."

While these seven were under arrest, Mr. Mundy charged, the officers "deliberately and in accordance with a preconceived plan" delivered them to a band of fifty to seventy-five men in Ku Klux Klan robes.

Sherif in Mob That Beat Me, Veteran Says

BY CARL WIEGMAN

[Chicago Tribune Press Service]

Rome, Ga., Nov. 29—A Negro war veteran wearing a faded GI shirt testified in federal court here today that he was knocked down and beaten by a mob of hooded Klansmen which included the Dade county sherif and three of his deputies.

Before the beating, the witness said, members of the mob threatened to hang him, and he appealed to the sherif for help.

"The sherif turned his back and walked away," said the war veteran.

In Army Four Years

The witness was Charles M. Roberts, 31, of Hooker, Ga., who served nearly four years in the army, 30 months overseas. He told his story to Federal Judge Frank A. Hooper and an all white jury in the trial of Sherif John W. Lynch, three of his deputies, and eight other men.

All are charged with depriving seven Negroes of their civil rights and with conspiring to do the same last April 2, when the Negroes were beaten by the mob near the town of Trenton, Ga., about 12 miles from Chattanooga, Tenn.

The government charges that the mob of 50 to 75 men burned a cross in front of the home of Mrs. Mamie Clay, a Negro, and then flogged the seven Negro men without interference by the sherif and his deputies. Yesterday Mrs. Clay testified that the cross burning and the beatings were the climax of a series of efforts to drive her from the home which her family has owned for 60 years.

Sees Automobiles Approach

Roberts testified that on the evening of April 2 he was driving past Mrs. Clay's home when he saw a procession of automobiles approaching. The procession was led by a gray car driven by Deputy Sherif Stokes McCauley, the witness said.

To get off the road, Roberts drove into Mrs. Clay's yard, he said.

"The sherif searched me and my car," Roberts continued. "Then we saw the cross burning and one of the hooded men prayed or preached. The hooded men came into Mamie's yard and they brought her out and told her 'these wild parties will have to be cut out or you'll have to sell out and get out.' One of the hooded men had a rope and he said he was going to hang us."

Roberts said he and a Negro companion, Horace Owens, told the sherif they were scared and begged permission to leave.

"I asked the sherif, 'You are the sherif, can't you help us,'" the witness said. "He turned his back and walked away."

Beaten with Strap

Roberts then told how he and six other Negroes were loaded into a station wagon which took them to a near-by "hollow." There he was knocked to the ground and beaten with a leather strap until one of the blows drew blood, he said.

Similar accounts of the violence were given to the jury by three other victims, A. C. Hale, 23; James E. Hale, 20, and Leroy Wood, 24. All said they were forced to take off their pants before they were beaten.

On cross-examination by Defense Atty. Frank Gleason, James Hale admitted that he had once been convicted of a felony. Atty. Gleason also sought to discredit the testimony of Wood by asking him if he had been convicted of a felony in Marion county, Tennessee, in December, 1944.

Wood then denied he ever had been convicted of a felony and drew from his pocket his navy discharge papers, which showed that he had served honorably from August, 1943, until December, 1945.

Klan Merges Carolina Units, Paper Says

Action Believed Aimed At Nation-Wide Group

Augusta, Ga., Nov. 20 (AP)—All klaverns of the KuKlux Klan in North and South Carolina were united this week in an organization known as the Association of Carolina Klans, The Augusta Chronicle reported today.

The paper said the merger was announced in an interview by reporter Esther Young with the new grand dragon, Thomas L. Hamilton, Leesville, S. C.

Klansmen present during the interview said they saw in the announcement a move for a nation-wide Klans. They said Hamilton has been mentioned as a possible leader of the united gorup.

Hamilton formerly was a grocer in Augusta, where he was active in community and fraternal organizations.

'To Weed Out The Selfish'

He said he had been a member of the Klan since 1926.

He announced temporary headquarters for the Carolina association will be at his colonial-style home in Leesville, a town between Augusta and Columbia.

Hamilton told The Chronicle his first move will be "to weed out all those persons who are using the Klan for selfish and political reasons."

In the Carolina association, he said, "we have thousands of high-type men—and we intend to keep it that way."

He announced a program calling for white supremacy, separation of church and State, free speech, free press, and liberty and justice to all.

The Carolina group, he said, will be unmasked as ordered by law.

Flogging Trial Set at Rome

ROME — (AP) — Forty-six summonses have been issued to North Georgians for petit jury duty during the November session of U. S. District Court, which opens Nov. 21 in Rome.

Judge Frank Hooper, former Fulton Superior Court judge who received a recess appointment to the District Court bench will preside over the session, and U. S. District Attorney Ellis Mundy will head the battery of government attorneys.

The first criminal trial will be the government's case against Dade County Sheriff John W. Lynch, his three deputies and eight others who are charged with conspiring to violate the civil rights of seven Negroes.

A special Federal Grand Jury in July charged the 12 men with the alleged flogging of the Negroes near Hooker, on April 2.

The government charged that the Negroes were flogged and beaten by a "group of 50 to 75 hooded and robed men."

A total of 49 witnesses, including prominent Ku Klux Klan officials, have been subpoenaed for the trial. Imperial Wizard Samuel Roper, of the Association of Georgia Klans, is among the witnesses, according to court officials.

Two Attorneys Fired On After Filing Klan Suit

One of two young attorneys who filed an injunction suit against the Ku Klux Klan reported they were assailed last night by a cross-burning and pistol shots.

Hal A. Irwin said that a flaming cross was set off in front of a dwelling where he and Samuel D. Johnson were spending the night.

About the same time, he added, four or five bullets crashed through the front window. Neither was harmed by the shots, he explained, because both were in the rear of the house at the time.

Irwin said he was spending the night with Johnson because during the afternoon he received a telephone threat that "you'll be sorry that you filed that suit."

The young attorney interrupted his telephone account to say, "the Police Lieutenant is here now. Do you want to talk with him?"

A little later, another voice said over the telephone:

"Don't sign the police's name to this report."

Irwin and Johnson filed during the day a suit asking Court protection for an Atlantan against "a threat of torture and beating at the hands of the . . . scum of the Ku Klux Klan."

Their client is Hugh Gilliland, 29. They asked an injunction against Dr. Samuel Green, Grand Dragon of the Klan.

Judge E. E. Pomeroy ordered Dr. Green to show cause on Aug 26 why he and his followers should not be restrained from interfering with Gilliland.

Klan Probe Intimidation Is Charged

Clark Foreman, Executive Director of the Bill of Rights Conference, charged last night that Gov. Talmadge's administration is attempting to intimidate an inquiry into the Klan's connections with the Georgia Governor and law enforcement agencies.

From New York, Foreman wrote the Governor asking him to direct Atlanta authorities to cease interfering with the inquiry into the Klan. He also said Talmadge has responsibility for the "safe passage of Georgia delegates" to the New York convention.

Informed of Foreman's statement, Talmadge declared that "if anyone thinks he needs protection, I will provide that protection—as much as I abhor Communism."

The Governor pointed out that Foreman and his organiaztion have been branded by Congress as a "Communistic Front." He said he was proud to be opposed to everything for which Foreman stands.

Georgia Mayor Blames Kidnap Try On KKK

Official Of Iron City Drives Off Attackers With Shotgun Blasts

DONALSONVILLE, GA., July 26—(AP)—Night-riding Klansmen were accused today of attempting to kidnap the mayor of nearby Iron City.

Mayor C. L. Drake told of using an automatic shotgun to drive off seven or eight cars loaded with robed Klansmen. He said Klan members had tried to defeat him for office because he was opposed to Governor Herman Talmadge.

Drake told the Albany Herald today there had been persistent efforts to intimidate him through phone calls and letters. He said he had received letters advising him to leave the county and that the letters had been turned over to federal authorities.

The alleged kidnap attempt came about 3 a.m. on Sunday, July 17, Drake said. Klansmen parked their cars near his home.

Cow Pasture Attack

"They were slipping up on the house through a cow pasture—two or three of them—and I grabbed my gun," he said.

Drake fired 12 or 14 shots but the men were too far away to be harmed by the shotgun blasts. The robed men returned the fire, he said.

Iron City is in the southwestern corner of Georgia near the Alabama and Florida lines.

Drake said all of the 30 or 40 members of the local Klan were pro-Talmadge. Governor Talmadge, advocate of white supremacy, said recently that he and his late father Eugene Talmadge, were the only two governors of Georgia that had not been members of the Klan. Former Gov. Ellis Arnall later said he'd never belonged.

Nine Years Mayor

Drake has been mayor of Iron City nine years. The town has a population of about 500.

"These hoodlums have even brought in voters from out of town to vote against me," Drake said. "I refuse to leave or to be intimidated."

Sheriff C. L. Chandler of Seminole County said Drake did not report the attack to his office but that a relative had.

"I don't like it and the better class of people don't like it," Sheriff Chandler said.

"It started off pretty bad but has cooled down. I think we have things under control."

Georgia Town Outlaws Wearing Masks, Hoods

IRON CITY, GA., Sept. 5—(AP)—Wearing of masks and hoods in public was outlawed by ordinance tonight in this little town whose mayor twice has reported brushes with the Ku Klux Klan.

Four Officers Face Federal Trial In Flogging

TRENTON, Ga., Sept. 1—(AP)—The state trial of a sheriff and three deputies indicted in the flogging of seven Negroes near here has been postponed until after the officers are tried on federal charges. Sheriff J. W. Lynch and the deputies were scheduled to go on trial here Sept. 19. Warren Akin, solicitor-general of the Cherokee circuit, said he agreed to pass the case until the March term of court at the request of U. S. Dist. Atty. Ellis Munday. The officers and seven other persons are slated for trial in federal court at Rome, Ga., in the November term.

Ex-Policeman, G. B. I. Man Gets Wizard's Post

S. W. Roper Reported Elected At Meeting In Atlanta Last Night

ATLANTA, Aug. 27—(AP)—Samuel W. Roper, 54, former head of the Georgia Bureau of Investigation, announced today he has been elected to succeed the late Dr. Samuel Green as imperial wizard of the Georgia Association of Klans.

Roper said he first joined the klan in 1921 but "fell out" until the Association of Georgia Klans was formed after World War II by Green.

He said he had resigned recently as a transfer office of the state board of corrections. He said he will devote himself to the duties of imperial wizard.

"IT IS MY DESIRE and purpose to carry on the fight Dr. Green waged for so many years against un-American influences," he said.

Roper retired in 1941 as a captain on the Atlanta police force and became head of the investigation bureau of the State Highway Patrol. He left that post in February, 1943.

The Journal said Roper was elected at a secret conclave held in the Oakland City section of Atlanta last night.

Roper said the Georgia Klans would continue to remain separate from a new Klan organization formed in Montgomery, Ala., last week.

Dr. Lycurgus Spinks was chosen to head the new organization. The Georgia association, revived by Dr. Green after World War II, is generally considered the successor to the original Klan.

Klan's Chief Dr. Green Dies Of Heart Attack

By The United Press.

Atlanta, Aug. 18.—Dr. Samuel Green, imperial wizard of the Associated Klans of Georgia, died at his home tonight of a heart attack.

Death came unexpectedly to the Atlanta obstetrician who only recently was promoted from grand dragon to imperial wazard.

Members of the family said there had been no indication the 59-year-old doctor was ailing.

Ordered Unmasking In Public.

Green died shortly after 6 p.m. in his two-story brick home in the Morningside residential section. He is survived by his wife; two sons, Samuel, Jr., and Alfred J. Green, and a daughter, Virginia.

Green was the only member of the mystic order who was unmasked at the public meetings. He wore bright green robes.

He recently ordered the rest of the members to discard their masks while in public. He said this action was taken to keep the Klan from being blamed for a wave of mob violence.

At a "konklave" of Ku Klux Klansmen here about two weeks ago, Green was named imperial wizard and was authorized to revoke the charters of three klaverns.

Disbanded The 3 Groups.

The local Klan groups at Chattanooga, Tenn., and Trenton and Lafayette, Ga., were ordered disbanded because Green said certain members had been "taking the law into their own hands."

Green was the driving force behind the revitalized movement of the hooded order that followed the end of the war.

The old Ku Klux Klan was plagued by federal tax suits. Green took over, changed the name to the Associated Klans of Georgia, and successfully avoided any entanglements with the Government.

Green reportedly held a commission on Governor Herman Talmadge's staff. Visitors to his office said it was framed and displayed on the lobby wall. Talmadge never would confirm or deny that he had appointed the Klan ruler to an honorary state position.

Called It Patriotic Order.

Green was a veteran Klansman with membership dating back to the turbulent period of Klan history around World War I. He slid almost automatically into the position of grand dragon when the movement was reorganized in 1944.

The hooded order virtually had fallen apart in the 1930's after a series of floggings during which one person was beaten to death.

When Green took charge, he denied that his group had anything to do with the old Klan, maintaining that it was nothing but a patriotic order, sworn to uphol dthe laws of the State and United States.

The Klan Then And Now

To the Editor:

Without a state law to back up the order of Grand Dragon Dr. Green ordering the Associated Ku Klux Klans of Georgia to unmask, his order can very well amount to no more than a gesture intended to allay public resentment against an organization that possesses all the elements requisite to creation of a reign of terror in Georgia or any state.

The history of the Klan's ability to organize for one purpose and afterwards shift to any purpose that suits the fancy of its leaders with its membership and purposes kept in a deep freeze of inviolate secrecy, and the damage it can do to the peace and progress of any state makes of it in times such as we are now passing through a risk too great to even entertain as a calculated risk.

From one of the two encyclopedias I have for reference this is quoted: "Secret society which existed in the South during the reconstruction era (1865-1876). It was originally

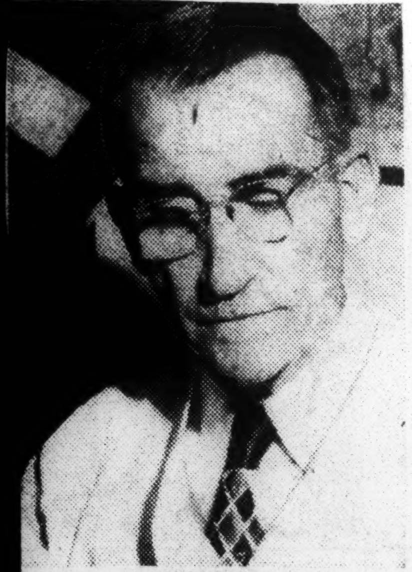
established at Pulaski, Tenn., for amusement purposes." Its ostensible purpose then as now had nothing whatever to do with its real purpose, which was disciplinary and designed to cope with an untoward situation that as yet has no parallel that justifies the existence today of such an organization.

According to the New Standard Encyclopedia, "The greatest period of activity of the original Ku Klux Klan was between 1868 to 1870." From the other source, "Upon the authority of President Grant, Congress in 1871 passed the 'force bill' for the protection of all citizens' rights, and the organization was subsequently dissolved."

There is little reason to doubt that the Klan's activities referred to had much to do then with bringing about congressional passage of the force bill.

In 1915 William J. Simmons of Atlanta obtained a charter for what he claimed would be "a high class, mystic, social, patriotic, benevelont association," which in plain Americanese turned out to mean anti everything that displease Klansmen politically, racially, religiously and morally. The Klan of the '20s done much to create class friction and class consciousness. BEN T. COUCHMAN.

Akron, Ala.



DR. SAMUEL GREEN

Indictments In Dade County

A Federal Grand Jury, sitting at Rome Wednesday, indicted a sheriff, three of his deputies and eight others in connection with the flogging of seven Negroes at Hooker, Georgia last April 2.

Wednesday's indictments follow earlier indictments of a Superior Court Grand Jury of Dade County, in which the sheriff, John W. Lynch, and three of his deputies were charged with turning the seven flog victims over to a mob of from 50 to 75 men. Daily World

It is too early to speculate on what the outcome will be. As we commented here following the June 10 indictments, we owe it to our readers to suggest to them not to become too optimistic over the news of the indictments, since its a big difference between indictments and convictions.

We have not forgotten the overwhelming evidence presented to a Federal Grand Jury in the Claude M. Screws trial at Albany, in connection with the death of Robert (Bobby) Hall. We listened to witness after witness, all of them white, testify against the sheriff. And we heard a guilty verdict returned. But, in spite of that, the sheriff has not served a day of that sentence. A second trial sent him home a free man. Fr. 8-5-49

Accordingly, we shall hold our breath until we get something tangible. The whole picture looks real bad. There we see able-bodied men, hiding under bed sheets to rob helpless and hapless Negroes of their constitutional rights. It would not be surprising if it were known that all of these men belong to the Church. Some of them are perhaps Chairman of the Deacon Board and others Chairmen of Steward Boards. Atlanta, Ga.

If it is true that the church has suffered from the loss of prestige, it is due, not so much to poor preaching of preachers, but to the fact that we have so many members like the ones, perhaps who took part in the floggings. Good people, especially young people, seeing such goings on as this, together with church people running all sorts of unsocial and anti-social enterprises, despair of this hypocrisy and resign themselves to a life of cynicism.

As to the sheriff and his deputies, good conscience should persuade them to give up their work and permit others more capable of preserving peace and maintaining law and order for all citizens alike.

When Do They Go Back On, Doc?

On Monday morning Doc Green, whom we all thought was the reluctant dragon of the Ku Kluxers, notified the press he had a release. Those who thought about it wondered if at long last he was going to announce he had seen the light and disbanded his hoods. Constitution

But, no. It developed that over Sunday the denizens of the klaverns had met secretly in Atlanta and elevated Doc to the position of Imperial Wizard.

And the first edict of the Imperial Wizard was to order the Klan to unmask on highways. Tues. 8-9-49

We commend the "Wiz" for that, but really it means very little. There are all sorts of klans infesting the region. And not many of them pay any attention to the "Wiz," especially when on devilment bent.

Doc Hiram Wesley Evans, as the "Wiz" who succeeded Doc Simmons, unmasked the Klan. Doc Colescott, who treated dumb animals as a vet and was therefore looked upon as the most fitting "Wiz" to head up the dumb persons who joined the order, also unmasked the Klan. Atlanta, Ga.

And now, Doc Green has done it again. As before, it happened when the Klan was under heavy fire.

Doc has unmasked them after some Klansmen in South Georgia got buckshot in their pants. For a long time now we have thought about urging upon one and all that when they see Klansmen trespassing on their property they up with old Betsy and let them have a dose of buckshot. But, being advocates of law and order, we haven't done so. The truth is that where the sheriffs allow the Klan to operate, there is no law and order.

The Klan has got to be unmasked in the hearts and minds of the people in the communities that tolerate it. It is a cancer which destroys government and the integrity of courts and county offices. It is anti-Christian. The church is right in saying the cross must be borne, not burned. The Klan also is un-American.

We call attention of the Governor, who last week said nothing had happened in Georgia to make an unmasking law necessary, that plenty has happened. The outrages of the klans have caused one group to say it will unmask.

The trouble is, the "Wiz" doesn't say when they are going to put them back on.

In two cities citizens have had their homes and property invaded by Klansmen. The law in those communities has broken down.

The State of Georgia must stand up and be counted on the side of decency, and of law and of rule by law. The Klan has done plenty to cause Georgia to cast it out. It is a treacherous, cowardly organization where it can intimidate or "take in" those sworn to uphold the law. Georgia can't officially tolerate it any more than the State could indorse the having of syphilis.

So, we regard the announcement as almost meaningless.

It is a confession of fear and of the Klan's guilt.

There is, however, one inescapable point. If the "Wiz" thinks the Klan should unmask, he will have no objection to the State keeping the mask off with a law.

Change Name

Editor Constitution: Have been reading all your very able and courageous editorials denouncing lynchings and the unspeakable antics of the Ku Klux Klan. Please, from now on, refer to this disgusting organization by the title which most truly describes it and which it has so nobly (?) earned, the Cowardly Curs Club.

I writhe in sympathetic shame to see and hear of the name, "Ku Klux Klan," being degraded by the scum who are using it today. Those noble men, who in desperation and in a time of terrible need, organized the hooded riders as their only means of protecting their homes, were all men of honor and high courage. This trash which today follows the pipsqueak clown Sam Green, isn't fit to wipe the dust from their shoes.

I was born in the West some 70 years ago, and the only men who wore masks were horse-thieves, robbers and murderers, and they were treated as such. So, please again, no more K. K. K.—just Cowardly Curs Club—C. C. C.

Atlanta. CLAUDIA E. WILSON.

Mayor Who Arrested Klansmen Disqualifies Self As Judge In Case

SOPERTON, Ga., June 13—(AP)—Mayor James Peterson stepped down as judge today in the trial of three men from whom he wrested Ku Klux Klan masks May 21 on city streets.

The small-town, South Georgia mayor had the white-robed and hooded trio arrested on charges of disorderly conduct and loitering.

He disqualified himself today as judge of Recorder's Court, after defense attorneys gave notice of intent to sue the mayor for damages.

They declared they would charge "his honor" with false imprisonment, illegal arrest, violation of civil rights, and assault.

Because of this pending suit, they argued, the mayor had a monetary interest in the outcome of the trial. On this point the mayor agreed, and Mayor Pro Tem James Walter took the gavel. Then a recess was taken until 2 p.m.

A back room in the only bank in this tiny turpentine town was the trial scene. A throng of shirt-sleeved onlookers crowded in a jam packed semi-circle around the mayor's desk and the defendants and attorneys. The room was stiflingly hot.

Some overalled farmers even stood in windows and craned their necks from sidewalks to try to follow the case.

The three men, if convicted, face a possible maximum sentence of $100 fine or 60 days in jail. They may appeal first to City Council, with the mayor as chairman, and then to Superior (Circuit) Court.

The three accused men are Malcolm Braddy, a mechanic; Joe Greene, farm and woolen mill worker, and John Edge, night watchman for the State Highway Department.

Klan Accuser Freed After Lunacy Quiz

Probe Pushed Into Cross Burning, Shots At Lawyer's House

Hugh Gilliland, 29, World War II veteran who sought an injunction protecting himself from the 'scum of the Ku Klux Klan," was in and out of jail in rapid order on a lunacy warrant yesterday as Decatur police pushed an investigation of a cross-burning and shooting at the home of his attorneys.

The young man was arrested on a lunacy warrant signed by his wife, Helen, and three other relatives from Rome. Later, the wife signed an affidavit asking to withdraw the warrant and on advice of a Lawson Hospital psychiatrist that he was not violent, Ordinary Eugene Gunby ordered his release.

Meanwhile, Hal Irwin and Samuel D. Johnson, Gilliland's attorneys, who were in a house in Decatur at the time a cross was burned in front of it and five shots were fired into it Thursday night, sought to obtain an immediate injunction against the Ku Klux Klan. Judge Edgar E. Pomeroy already had set Aug. 26, as the date for Dr. Samuel Green, Grand Dragon of the Klan, to show cause why he and his followers should not be restrained from interfering with Gilliland. He refused to make the injunction effective immediately unless Irwin produced more evidence against the Grand Dragon.

Capt. Tom Ellis, of the Decatur police, said he was continuing his investigation of the cross-burning and the shooting which occurred at Johnson's house late Thursday. He said five bullets crashed into the house. Two of them were imbedded in the plaster inside and others were found in woodwork outside. Neither attorney was harmed by the shots.

Dr. Green frequently serves on the lunacy commission and Gilliland's suit charged that he and Judge Gunby were "good friends." Dr. Green said he had not served at the time of Gilliland's previous commitment on a lunacy warrant.

INITIATION—

In adjoining Georgia, the Klan initiated new members and burned a cross atop Stone Mountain, near Atlanta, last night.

Dr. Samuel Green, Grand Dragon, told the Klansmen:

"God himself segregated the races. There is no law that can be passed by President Truman which can ever surpass God's law."

Klan Parades In Cars Through Bainbridge

BAINBRIDGE, Ga., July 11—(AP)—Twenty to 30 cars of hooded Ku Klux Klansmen paraded through Bainbridge Saturday night, traveling to Tallahassee, Fla., Sheriff E. White of Decatur County reported today.

The sheriff said he had been advised by a telephone call beforehand the masked men would come through the county.

"The caller said everything would be in order, but that a little parade would be passing through," he advised.

"I told the fellow my advice to any paraders was not to cover up their tags or violate any traffic regulations. I watched them go through while I was standing on the corner at a filling station," the sheriff said.

The cars bore Florida license tags and left Bainbridge on the Tallahassee Highway, he related. The sheriff said there was no law in Bainbridge banning the wearing of masks.

Klan Unmasker Loses Once Again

SOPHERTON, GA., July 8—(AP)—Mayor James Peterson, who ripped masks from three Ku Klux Klansmen in May, has lost a second court round against them.

Mayor Pro Tem James Waller said today he has dismissed charges of loitering against the three men. At a trial last month, Waller dismissed charges of disorderly conduct against the three for lack of evidence.

Waller said he dismissed the loitering charges because the men had only been on the city streets "20 or 30 minutes" when Peterson ripped their masks off and had them arrested. "That wasn't loitering," Waller said.

Waller heard the two charges when Peterson disqualified himself as judge of recorder's court.

Police Chief M. D. Ware said there's still the possibility of a third charge—carrying concealed weapons—against the men. Ware said he has not filed the charge, but that the case may be turned over to the next grand jury.

Hooded, Masked Groups Rapped By Baptist Union

Constitution State News Service

MACON—A resolution deploring police action by hooded and masked groups was adopted by the Georgia Baptist Training Union Assembly which ended a one-week session at Mercer University yesterday.

The Baptist group also expressed faith in the application of Christian principles to solve problems of race, capital-labor and international peace.

Oscar T. Braden, Rome accountant, was elected President of the State Baptist Training Union, succeeding Dr. Derward V. Cason, of Hapeville. Braden, who is a member of the Rome North Side Baptist Church, served two years as Vice President.

Named Vice President was the Rev. I. R. Hobby from near Fitzgerald.

A total of 960 registered for the assembly, one-half of these lived on the campus the entire week, which featured training conferences and workshops for various age groups, inspirational addresses, music and recreation. The Training Union theme this year is "Found Faithful."

Miss Edith Roberts, of Dublin First Baptist Church, placed first in the Bible sword drill contest, annual feature of the assembly. Placing first in the speakers' tournament was Douglas Fullington, Jr., of Macon, a Mercer freshman.

They will represent Georgia in the Southwide sword drill and speakers' tournament in July.

Presidents of BTU regions of Georgia were re-elected as follows: Calvin Pratt, of Atlanta, Central Western; William S. Bates, of Rome, Northwestern; R. W. Major, of Waycross, Southeastern; Wilbur S. Jones, of Dublin, Central-Eastern; and W. H. Pool, of Winder, Northeastern.

Eugene Pirkle, of Sycamore, was named Southwestern Regional President, succeeding the Rev. I. R. Hobby.

Dr. J. Theo. Phillips, of Richland, was elected to the Executive Committee. Re-elected to that body were C. R. Lecroy, of Savannah; Elbert Hill, of Macon; Maurice Newman, of Rome; Ira McMinn, of Toccoa, and Miss Hazel Langford, of Barnesville.

Dr. Gainer E. Bryan, State Baptist Training Union Secretary, was in charge of the Assembly. Host was Dr. Spright Dowell, President of Mercer University.

Man, 76, Left Naked in Rain

Beaten for Knowing Whites Too Well

CROSSES BURNED

Sheriff, Four Others Indicted in One Case

ATLANTA — The hooded hoodlums are on the loose!

In a last-ditch fight, agitated no doubt by Attorney General Tom Clark's ruling that the Ku Klux Klan is subversive, members of the order went on a terror rampage last week.

Apparently originating in Georgia, headquarters of the Klan, the terrorism drive spread into the border States of Tennessee, Alabama and South Carolina.

In practically each case, masks and hoods labeled the terrorists as members of the Klan. One exception was in Columbia, S.C., where Shelton Lorick, a 76-year-old farmer was brutally beaten by 15 men who were neither masked nor hooded.

(Columbia is located in Richland County, the same county in which war veteran Isaac Woodard had his eyes gouged out by police chief Lynwood L. Shull, at Batesburg.)

Other Major Cases

Other major cases of violence attributed to Klansmen included:

Chattanooga, Tenn.—The beating of six white men with blackjacks.

Clinton, Tenn.—Burning of crosses before the homes of Sidney Davis and Buford Lewellen, white attorneys seeking the removal of the local sheriff.

Macon, Ga.—A parade by 400 masked men on the outskirts of town.

But while members of the Klavern were attempting to regain some of their former positions as guardians of white supremacy at its worst, action was being taken in various sections of the South against the order.

Five Indicted by Jury

Following the example of Chattanooga, which sometime ago indicted a grocer under an 80-year-old anti-Klan law, a Dade County grand jury indicted five persons, including a sheriff, on assault charges growing out of the alleged flogging of seven colored persons by a hooded and masked group on April 2.

The futility of belonging to the Klan also was demonstrated last week as a former Solicitor General of Georgia was rejected as counsel for the House Un-American Activities Committee because of past membership in the Klan.

Meanwhile, an investigation is on in the beating of Mr. Lorick, who was taken from his home in the "Dixiana" section of Lexington County, S.C., driven into a wooded area seven miles away and

kicked, stomped and left stark naked and bleeding in a pouring rain.

Now in Columbia Hospital (he is expected to recover), Mr. Lorick told how three of the mobsters entered his home about midnight on May 7 through an unlocked door, hit him over the head with a blackjack and dragged him out to the motorcade waiting to take him to the woods.

At the time, Mr. Lorick's 76-year-old wife was lying ill in an adjoining room. She suffered a stroke several years ago and had been critically ill for about three weeks. Sat. 5-21-49

A son who was visiting his father attempted to go to his help, but was held by the men.

No Answer Accepted

During the drive to the woods, Mr. Lorick said, he was questioned about white persons' coming to his house, about his having taken fuel wood to the home of a white widow living nearby, and about his general attitude toward white persons.

Attempting to explain the attack further, Mr. Lorick said that about 15 years ago he had trouble with whites in the section.

At that time, he surprised a white man in his chicken house, shot him and then marched him to the county sheriff who jailed the man.

Say Woman Also Beaten

It has been rumored that relatives of the Loricks are attempting to get the entire family out of the vicinity, following reports that additional violence is in store.

Another report is that the white woman whom Mr. Lorick had aided was beaten by the same unmasked band the same night, catching her when none of her larger of several children were around.

When he explained that he sold various commodities to white persons, that he had been taking the wood to the woman for the man for whom she had once worked and that he felt at home around white persons, he was yanked out of the car and viciously attacked, Mr. Lorick went on.

He made his way to the home of a white family nearby, where he was given first aid, clothed and taken to the hospital. His condition is reported as fair. His wife, however, has not been advised of the attack, he said.

In the Clinton (Tenn.) case both attorneys are under fire for handling the suit which seeks the ouster of Sheriff Bernard Wandergriff on "false report" charges. Lewellen said that not only was the cross burned before his home, but that a warning note signed "Knights of the Ku Klux Klan," was left on the lawn.

Arrested at "Wild Party"

In the Dade County case, the jury acted after hearing testimony of the seven victims from Chattanooga, who were seized from Sheriff J. W. Lynch after he had arrested them at a "wild party."

The group was escorted to Trenton Tuesday by the Georgia Highway Patrol. Also indicted with Sheriff Lynch were Deputies W. H. Hartline, N. Stokes and John Bleckleu. Robert Keener was the private citizen held.

Bond was set in each case at $1,000.

Judge John E. Paschall, who called the grand jury into special session, asked that steps be taken to insure that the flogging victims would be protected.

A group of about 100 white spectators looked on curiously as the witnesses were escorted into the courthouse to await their turns to testify.

Sheriff Lynch had arrested the seven people at a house where he said 'wild parties' had been reported.

Told to Clear Out

He said a group of about 40 masked and robed men appeared before the house and demanded the surrender of the prisoners. He identified the me[illegible] Klansmen. The victims sa[illegible] ter they were loaded into a station wagon, driven to a wooded spot, flogged and told to "clear out."

Solicitor General Warren Aiken, of the Cherokee Circuit, said 25 persons have been subpeonaed to appear before the jury.

Aikn said the Federal Bureau of Investigation has been investigating the floggings, but added that agents of the FBI are not permitted to testify at grand jury hearings in State courts.

Public opinion was riveted upon the case several days after the floggings when a Georgia jurist, Judge J. M. C. (Red) Townsend, denounced the sheriff for his lackadaisical attitude in yielding to the mob.

He spoke before the Rotary Club of Chattanooga. Following the floggings, Sheriff Lynch asked: "What would you have done?"

JUST GOD'S LITTLE HELPERS:

Ohioian Challenges KKK in Dragon's Lair

Afro — Baltimore, Md.

ATLANTA, Ga.—The Klan has upheld "white supremacy" and helped maintain freedom of religion and press, Dr. Samuel Green, KKK Grand Dragon, replied to Joseph M. Goldwasser, Cleveland industrialist, Friday, upon the latter's query of "what good the Klan has done."

Goldwasser, who intervened in the stalemated effort to get justice in the Robert Mallard lynching and to secure conviction of two white men charged with the January atrocity, had come to Atlanta specifically to interview Dr. Green on KKK attitude and actions.

The Atlanta head of the Klan realm spared few epithets during the interview in his office quarters. He had refused to let colored reporters enter his obstetrical examination room, although admitting later that he had met there with Roi Ottley, the well-known writer.

Exhibits Bigoted Warning

Vocally strong, Dr. Green did most of the talking, while Goldwasser got in a few questions.

When the Clevelander entered Green's office, he showed him an anonymous letter. After Green looked at it, he expressed the opinion it was written by an "idiotic nut." Sat. 7-2-49

The letter, written in pencil and bearing a stamp showing a hooded horseman, warned: "All Catholics, Jews and colored persons get out of Tennessee and Georgia and stay out."

Green told Goldwasser to turn the letter over to the FBI. The Jewish merchant said he would do so in Cleveland.

Dragon Gets Angry

The KKK dragon questioned the intelligence of anyone who would think the letter was written by the Klan or bore the KKK insignia. He showed Kluxer letterheads and red Maltese cross with blood on it to show Goldwasser the Klan's official insignia.

Then he became furious at the idea that Goldwasser had shown the letter to the press.

"That's just the trouble—people like you putting out such false information." 7-2-49

Then Old Doc Green lashed into Goldwasser for "violating Southern customs" by escorting Mrs. Amy Mallard at the courthouse in Lyons. The Dragon made a quote or two from the Bible purporting to uphold segregation, and then told Goldwasser:

"Sometimes Northern people like you come down here and misguide colored persons. You can marry them if you want to up North, but we Southerners are going to keep our bloodstream clean."

The Clevelander wanted to know why the Klan "hurts and harms Protestants, Jews, Catholics and colored people."

Denies Lynchings

Green replied that "anyone who says the Klan hates or harms anybody is a liar—just a plain liar."

The KKK head denied the Klan participated in lynchings and mob-action and said Goldwasser could not "prove one single case against the Klan" regardless of news reports. 7-2-49

He put in a denial that the Klan was connected with recent mob violence in Alabama. The radios and newspapers came in for blasting for what Green said were "unwarranted attacks and lies."

Green attacked President Truman's administration and declared the Klan opposes "anyone who would change the United States Constitution from its original intent or turn our Government into a socialistic state."

Newsmen Invited

When Goldwasser came to Atlanta he invited newsmen to attend his conference with Dr. Green. Green didn't like this, but finally consented to let 11 reporters come in.

Goldwasser wasn't too satisfied with the interview. He said in the end: "I still think the Klan promotes lynchings and mobs."

The Clevelander revealed that his campaign against the Klan is a personal matter, stemming from an experience in 1927 at Clarksdale, Miss. He claims he was kicked and beaten by KKK members who were parading through the streets of the town when he was attacked.

Recalls Cross Burning

He also recalls a cross-burning before the Jewish fraternity house at Ohio Northern College in Ada, Ohio. 7-2-49

This was one of Goldwasser's several trips to the South. His most noted was when he aided Mrs. Mallard. Southerners were incensed with him for conducting an investigation of the case at his own expense.

He returned to Cleveland on Monday.

Jurist Urges: Unmask Klan, Oust Green From Staff

Constitution — Atlanta, Ga.

If Gov. Talmadge calls a special session of the General Assembly the people of Georgia should urge him to ask for the unmasking of the Ku Klux Klan, Judge J. M. C. (Red) Townsend, of the Court of Appeals, declared yesterday.

In a speech before the Lions Club, the fiery jurist attacked the Klan in general and specifically urged the removal of Dr. Samuel Green, Grand Dragon of the Klan, from the Governor's staff.

"There are two people who ought not to be on the Governor's staff," Judge Townsend declared. "One is Homer Chase, head of the Communist Party in Georgia and the other is Samuel Green, head of the anarchists' group known as the Ku Klux Klan." 7-4-49

"If Dr. Green is on the Governor's staff and is not removed," the judge continued, "all patriotic, law-abiding members ought to resign and leave it with him."

Former Georgia Klansman Denied Federal Position

Journal & Guide — Norfolk, Va. — Sat. 5-21-49

WASHINGTON, D. C.— (NNPA) —The effect of the listing of the Ku Klux Klan as a subversive organization by Attorney General Tom Clark was seen last Tuesday as the cause for the House Un-American Activities Committee not employing a Georgian as committee counsel.

According to reports circulated in Capitol corridors, Representative John S. Wood, of Georgia, chairman of the committee, recently had Walter LeCraw, an Atlanta attorney, to come to Washington for purposes of an interview with committee members.

Mr. LeCraw, a former assistant solicitor general of the Fulton (Atlanta) Superior Court circuit and brother of former Mayor Roy LeCraw of Atlanta, had been recommended for the post of chief counsel, vacated by Robert Stripling.

DENIED POST

Capitol corridor reports have it that Mr. LeCraw was denied the post because he admitted having been a member of the Ku Klux Klan and having only recently resigned his membership in the hooded organization.

From reliable sources it was learned that reporters who customarily cover the activities of the Un-American Activities Committee gathered background information preparatory to writing stories announcing his appointment as chief counsel of the committee.

After a meeting of the committee, however, it was announced that no appointment of a successor to Mr. Stripling would yet be made.

JOINED THE KLAN

A member of the committee, who requested that his name be withheld from publication, disclosed that among other things the committee had asked Mr. LeCraw whether he was a member of the Klan. He was quoted as replying that he was not presently a member, but he had joined back in the twenties during the revival of the hooded organization.

Sat. 5-21-49

KKK CHIEF SAYS SO

Klan Dragon Green On Governor's Staff

The Constitution

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS Atlanta, Ga.

The Grand Dragon of the Ku Klux Klan claims he is a member of Gov. Talmadge's personal staff. Wed. 6-29-49

The question arose after the Governor was asked at his press conference whether Dr. Samuel Green is a staff member.

"I don't know," said Talmadge.

Dr. Green, reached in his car via radio telephone, said, "Sure. I've been a member of the Governor's staff since his inauguration."

The head of the Klan, which is on the subsersive list of U. S. Attorney General Tom Clark, added, "I don't see anything funny about it."

Earlier in the week a sharp-eyed reporter in Dr. Green's office spotted what appeared to be a framed commission, dated Nov. 17, 1948.

This commission, bearing Talmadge's name, designated Dr. Green as a Lieutenant Colonel and Aide-De-Camp to the Governor.

In any case, the question prompted reporters to check the various executive department secretaries, none of whom could remember whether Dr. Green was a staff member. Wed. 6-29-49

Though the commission was dated almost a year ago, none of the secretaries could turn up a list of the Governor's staff appointments.

During the gubernatorial campaign, Grand Dragon Green came out repeatedly in favor of the "white supremacy" candidate at Klan rallies.

At one massive rally at Stone Mountain last year, Dr. Green endorsed such a candidate and several of the robed klansmen yelled, "Talmadge."

The present Governor's campaign was predicated on maintaining white supremacy at the polls.

Subsequently, the Talmadge-dominated Legislature declined to pass a measure to unmask the Klan.

Klan and Lynching In Georgia Slated For Investigation

Courier Journal Louisville, Ky.

New York, June 30 (AP)—The Bill of Rights Conference announced today it has started an undercover investigation of a lynching and Ku Klux Klan activities in Georgia.

Clark Foreman, executive director of the conference and former president of the Southern Conference for Human Welfare, said he would not disclose the investigators involved because it might expose them to physical violence. Fri. 7-1-49

"This much I can say about the director of the inquiry," Foreman said. "He is a distinguished resident of the State of Georgia, known for his scholarship and courage."

MAYS

Perhaps Georgians Want the Ku Klux Klan Under Masks

By BENJAMIN E. MAYS

(The views expressed in this column are those of the writer and do not necessarily express the editorial opinion of The Pittsburgh Courier. — The Editors.)

Pittsburgh Courier

YOU cannot unhood the Klan in Georgia. And if you cannot unmask the Klan, you certainly cannot get rid of it. On Jan. 20, the Georgia House of Representatives killed a bill to make it illegal for the Klan to parade with hoods on. The vote was eighty - nine o sixty - five against the proposal.

Fifty - one members did not vote. It can be said that the fifty-one were either in favor of the Klansmen keeping their hoods on or it didn't matter to them which way the vote went. They certainly had no clear-cut convictions one way or the other, and to be indifferent toward an evil is tantamount to endorsing it. In the Georgia Legislature, the Klan was held up as a "shining symbol" of the Southern way of life.

Dr. Mays

One defender of the order declared that the Klan saved the country during Reconstruction Days. The Associated Press stated Jan. 20, that "Rebel yells and the stamping of feet greeted Bennett when he told the legislators they would be listed with such Southern heroes as Robert E. Lee if they killed the measure."

* * *

IT CANNOT BE determined to what extent the Georgia Legislature reflects the mind of the people of the State. I am of he opinion, though, that it is a pretty good index as to how the majority of the white people of Georgia feel.

When four Negroes can be lynched in open daylight by unhooded men and nothing is done; when a man can be shot down at his own house because he voted and nothing is done; and when another man can be killed on the highway by a mob and nothing is done; and when law suits must be instituted in the Federal Courts to get the ballot and equalization of salaries, it can be argued that these things are proof enough that the majority of the white people of Georgia believe in the Klan.

I won't swear to this, but I believe it. I am equally convinced that thousands of white people in Georgia are against the Klan. The Constitution and the Journal are against the Klan. It was white ministers who started the drive to get the bill through the Legislature and this is encouraging and reassuring.

* * *

BUT I ALSO believe that there are other thousands who are not members of the Klan and who would not join the Klan, but who way down in their hearts believe in what the Klan stands for and silently say "Amen" to what the Klansmen do.

As I have said before there are millions of people who themselves would have never done to the Jews what Hitler did to them, but nevertheless expressed sympathy for and understanding of the reasons why Hitler did it. Prejudice is a terrible thing and no man is free until he purges his soul of it.

What is this thing that the Georgia Legislature endorsed? The Ku Klux Klan is a white man's organization. It exalts the Caucasian race. It teaches white supremacy. Christian civilization, the Klan argues, "depends upon the preservation and upbuilding of the white race." The Klan is a Gentile organization. No Jew can become a member. It is American. Membership is restricted to native-born American citizens. Sat. 2-5-49

IT IS A Protestant organization. No Catholic can join the Klan even though he, like the Jew and the Negro, may be a native-born American citizen. It is quite obvious that Negroes are excluded. It is directed against Negroes more than it is directed against Jews or Catholics.

The Klan has a fear which has no foundation in fact—now nor in the foreseeable future. It fears that the control of this country will be taken from the white man. It fears also that the purity of the white race will not be maintained. I see no danger of the first fear. As for the second fear, the white man will be reaping what he himself has sown if the purity of the white race is not maintained. He is now and has been the aggressor.

They state plainly that "every effort to wrest from white men the management of its affairs in order to transfer it to the control of blacks or any other color, or to permit them to share its control, is an invasion of our sacred constitutional prerogatives and a violation of divinely established laws. Every effort to wrest from the white man the control of this country must be resisted."

* * *

SUCH A STATEMENT is absurd. How can 13,000,000 Negroes wrest this country from the control of more than 117,000,000 white persons?

The white man should not fear the Negro. He should not fear the Jew. He should not fear Catholics. The only thing that the white man needs to fear is God, sin and injustice.

When and if the white man loses his control in the United States and in the world, the cause will not be the Negro. It will be sin and injustice. And his fall will be the judgment of God upon a people that had the opportunity to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with their God, and refused to do it. And when a people becomes unjust, it needs no atomic bomb to bring about its downfall.

Albany, Ga., Has First KKK Parade in 20 Years

Pittsburgh Courier

ALBANY, Ga. — The Ku Klux Klan paraded through Albany last Tuesday night for the first time in twenty years. The group numbered approximately two hundred klansmen and 150 recruits, and rode in about forty automobiles through the city's streets. Klan officials rode in a car with an electrically-lighted cross on the front. Sat. 1-1-49

The parade did not pass through Negro sections.

McGill Seeking Law In Georgia To Unmask KKK

The News Birmingham Ala.

WASHINGTON, June 26—(AP) —Ralph McGill, editor of The Atlanta Constitution, night called for state laws to unmask the Ku Klux Klan and for immediate passage of a federal anti-lynch bill.

In a radio interview (Station WWDC), McGill said the enactment of state laws to unmask hooded organizations is overdue, particularly in Alabama, Georgia and Florida.

McGill said a federal anti-lynch law should not include police power or coercion."

"The Klan has doubled in membership since President Truman announced his civil rights program," McGill said.

But he said the Klan differs from the Klan of the 1920's in that prominent Southerners now stay out of it. He added:

"As for the actual strength of the Klan, as compared with the years immediately after the First World War, it's about one-twentieth, with action localized in tough urban suburbs like those around Birmingham."

Georgia Judge Flays Klan As Disgusting

ATLANTA — Appeals Court Judge J. M. C. Townsend lashed out again at the Ku Klux Klan, which held its initiation of 300 members on Stone Mountain last week, calling them "disgusting hooded mobsters."

Judge Townsend declared that the klan and other hooded groups dedicated to violence and lawlessness jeopardize the liberties and dignity of all Americans. "They try a man behind closed doors," he said, "then go out in their bedsheet regalia and punish him by brutal beatings or sometimes death."

KLAN-BUSTING MAYOR ANGERS GRAND DRAGON

Commercial Appeal

'Violation Of Civil Rights' Is Charged By Green

Memphis Tenn. Mon. 5-23-49

SOPERTON, Ga., May 22—(UP) —The mayor of this little turpentine town in Central Georgia ripped the hood from three men in Ku Klux Klan robes Saturday night, and Sunday was threatened with legal action by the klan's grand dragon.

Mayor Jim Peterson, 55, will sit as judge of the men he unmasked and charged with disturbing the peace. In Atlanta, however, Grand Dragon Samuel Green declared that Peterson "violated their civil rights" by the forcible unmasking.

"If he did jerk the hoods off," said Green, "he's in violation of the law himself and he's going to hear something about it. We don't like our dogs to be kicked around, by mayors or anybody else."

The men were booked as Joe Green, farmer; Malcolm Braddy, mechanic and John Edge, Highway Department worker. Mon. 5-23-49

Peterson countered with a reminder that all this area was on the alert for five escaped convicts, and that "nobody knows how they might have disguised themselves." When the men refused to tell who they were, he said, he did the only possible thing. Memphis Tenn.

The mayor in his ninth year as leader of this town of 2000, went into action after housewives in his neighborhood complained that the hooded and sheeted men were on the streets.

Georgia Mayor Defies Klan: Rips Masks Off Three Hooded Knights

Chicago Defender
Chicago, Ill.

SOPERTON, Ga.—The Ku Klux Klan cried "violation of civil rights" Saturday night after Mayor Jim Peterson ripped hoods from three men wearing Klan regalia.

Mayor Peterson said he had the three arrested on disorderly conduct charges after they were accused of frightening several women. Sat. 6-4-49

Action of the 55-year-old mayor brought a vociferous protest from Grand Dragon Samuel Green in Atlanta. He declared Mayor Peterson "violated their civil rights" by the forcible unmasking.

Men Identified

"If he did jerk their hoods off," said Green, "he's in violation of the law himself and he's going to hear something about it. We don't like our dogs to be kicked around by mayors or anybody else."

The men unmasked were Joe Green, farmer; Malcolm Brady, mechanic, and John Edge, state highway department worker.

Mayor Peterson said he had received several telephone calls from frightened women, and when he went to investigate he found two hooded men near his home.

Mayor Struck 6-4-49

He said he asked them what they were doing, and when they refused to answer, stripped off their masks. He added that the man identified as Brady struck him, knocking off his glasses.

Police Chief M. B. Ware said a few crosses have burned in this town of about 2,000, the latest one a month ago, "but we haven't had any serious trouble from the Klan."

The mayor said he thought the men might have been posted at the corners to direct a Klan cavalcade, but Dragon Green reported he knew of none in that area.

Two Items In The News

Daily World—Atlanta, Ga.

Two strange and extremely interesting news items have been reported in the Georgia press over the past weekend. The first dealt with a report that school buses in Twiggs and Baldwin counties were used to transport members of the Ku Klux Klan during a recent demonstration.

The second report, even worse and more disturbing than the first, is that at Valdosta, Georgia Negro lads were used to distribute Klan circulars, advertising the speech of an Atlanta man, whose subject was to have been "The truth about the KKK."

We repeat, these came to us in the form of news items. But as yet, there has been no public denial of either incident, as we can learn. As to the first, it would appear that responsible officials in the two county boards of education should be held accountable for the buses supported by taxpayers money being so employed. In the second instance, it appears to be a matter of patriotism or plain common sense and racial self-respect on the part of parents in permitting their children to be so used by such a notorious organization as the Klan. Fri. 5-20-49

We know Negro citizens scattered throughout the length and breadth of Georgia who would rather starve of hunger rather than receive a few paltry pennies from such an unholy organization as the Klan. To the remaining Negroes who place money above principle, we would like to suggest that they employ their energies in other and more fruitful ways. For it is the worst sort of lynching to the minds and future outlook of these lads, who know only to follow their parents and elders in these formative years of their devolopment.

Flogging, Simulated Hanging By KKK Told By Georgia Vet

The Advertiser
Montgomery, Ala.

LAFAYETTE, GA., May 17—(AP)—A noose was held around the neck of a 26-year-old war veteran last night while he was flogged by some 20 men in Ku Klux Klan regalia. Wed. 5-18-49

J. C. Stoker, a carpenter, said the shouting and shooting masked men took him from his home four miles west of here, leaving his wife and three small children in tears and near collapse.

Sheriff Weymon Harmon ordered a full investigation of the incident.

Stoker said the hooded men, traveling in four automobiles, took him about 150 yards from the house, where he was ordered to kneel and a noose was placed around his neck. He said several of the men fired shots and shouted "hang him" and "shoot him."

"I thought they were going to hang me," Stoker said.

Rope marks were visible on his neck and his back showed severe slash wounds. Mrs. Stoker said his undershirt was soaked with blood when he staggered back into the house after being released.

Stoker said the men accused him of not supporting his family and excessive drinking.

He related details of the incident today after being assured of protection by Sherif fHarmon. He said he was afraid not to return to his job today "because they might get me again."

His employer, Dr. R. C. Langley, said Stoker was a good worker.

The veteran said he was borrowing a pistol today "to protect my home."

He added: Montgomery, Ala.

"I have never and will never spend money for whisky when it takes food and clothing from my family. The Klan has undertaken a big job if they want to beat up everybody that takes a drink." Wed. 5-18-49

Sheriff Harmon said "every resource of this office will be used to apprehend the floggers and I will also call on the Georgia Bureau of Investigation to assist me. We will not tolerate this flouting of the law in Walker County."

Some 20 persons have been flogged by mobs in nearby Georgia and Tennessee counties in recent months.

Soperton Unmasks the Klan

The Constitution

Now and then something happens to prove the real American spirit isn't dead. Down in Soperton, Ga., Mayor Jim Peterson unmasked the Klan in the simplest fashion we've yet encountered. He simply yanked the masks off some of the brave boys who were frightening some of the citizens of his town. Tue. 5-24-49

As might be expected, the Klan, famous for its shootings and its killings in the twenties, and for its beatings and abuse of citizens by moblike violence today, is shrieking about "rights." For the Klan to be talking about rights, with its record of ignoring the rights of others, is the sort of gall that would cause a self-respecting buzzard to gag.

If the Klan will check its record, it will find that it was believed responsible for a murder near Soperton in the twenties when a newspaper editor opposing them was killed. There have been Negro churches burned since that time and other acts of terrorism committed.

Every decent man is behind Mayor Jim Peterson. Atlanta, Ga. 5-24-49 Tue.

The Klan is listed as a subversive, un-American organization. It long has been. It also is an anti-Christian organization, prostituting the Cross of Christ and violating the Commandments and the Golden Rule every time it meets and dishonors Christianity and its country by its acts.

Bettis Freed by Jury In 18 Minutes; Hailed As Warning to Klan

By CELESTINE SIBLEY

A Criminal Court Jury yesterday took 18 minutes to find Frank Bettis, Atlanta feed and flour salesman, not guilty of driving while drunk.

Defense Atty. Paul Carpenter hailed the verdict as expressing that "decent-thinking people and the public in general think that orders like the Klan should not exist—or if they do exist, that they should be unmasked!

"That was the issue on which Bettis was tried—and that is what this jury held, I believe," Carpenter declared.

Meanwhile, Bettis, who had insisted he was arrested not for driving while drunk but for interfering with a Ku Klux Klan parade in his neighborhood outside the city limits Dec. 4, shook hands delightedly with scores of friends and neighbors who pressed to the rail to speak to him.

The jury received the case at 1:02 p. m. and returned a verdict at 1:20 p. m. after a drama-filled trial of a day and a half. The trial was dragged out by the testimony of 38 witnesses, spiked with humor and brisk side skirmishes between Defense Atty. Carpenter and Sol. John I. Kelley and highlighted by the unexpected appearance of the Ku Klux Klan's Grand Dragon, Dr. Samuel Green, in the courtroom.

"Did you see the Grand Dragon when he walked into the courtroom?" Carpenter demanded of the jury in his closing argument. "That couldn't have been pressure . . . or could it? Yes, I expect the pressure is on and it's on now in this courtroom!"

"He knows I don't have any control over who comes into this courtroom!" Kelley cried later, shaking his finger at Carpenter. "He intimated that I'm afraid of the Cyclops!"

"I think you are," Carpenter remarked quietly to general laughter in the courtroom.

"Well, I don't care what you think," the Solicitor said and resumed his address to the jury with a humorous story about a little boy who wasn't afraid of "little devils" but admitted he might be "scared of a great big scaly devil."

Earlier in the day the trial reached a startling stand-still when Kelley, with Fulton County Police Chief Neal Ellis on the stand as a rebuttal witness, sought to show why he decided to prosecute Bettis by asking: "Did you bring some affidavits to my office? And then did you bring a record showing five convictions of Frank Bettis?"

"Wait a minute!" shouted Carpenter and then to the court, "Did you hear what he said, your honor?"

"I heard what he said," affirmed Judge Jesse M. Wood.

"That's grounds for a mistrial," Carpenter said, "I ask the court to direct the jury to retire!"

The jury retired and for half an hour Carpenter and Kelley argued the defense motion for a mistrial. Carpenter contended the Solicitor had improperly put Bettis' character in issue with the mention of previous convictions and Kelley held that Bettis himself had placed it in issue when he testified from the stand he didn't drink and hadn't since he joined the church some years ago. Kelley also argued that Bettis had attacked the Solicitor's position by reading from a Constitution news story which quoted Kelley as saying there was "insufficient evidence" to prosecute Bettis.

"That story is not true," Kelley said.

"Well, I didn't see you making any corrections," countered Carpenter. "If it had been me and I had been misquoted in the newspaper, I would have asked for and gotten a retraction. You have recourse when you've been misquoted."

Judge Wood denied the motion for a mistrial, but instructed the jury to disregard Kelley's mention of previous convictions on Bettis' record as "having no bearing on this case."

Bettis himself took the stand shortly after court convened at 9 a. m. to give a rambling and often incoherent account of his activities in the hours preceding the Ku Klux Klan parade on Chattahoochee Avenue and his arrest on drunken driving charges.

Asking permission to stand up in the witness stand, Bettis had voluminous notes and newspaper clippings to bolster his testimony but was denied permission to read from the clippings. He emphatically insisted he was neither drinking nor cursing when he sought to stop the Klan's parade in his neighborhood.

He said he approached a Klansman who was directing traffic on the corner and added, "I give him the Klan handshake of a Klansman 17 years ago. I give him the Klan password of 17 years ago. And he didn't recognize either.

"I wanted to know what they were doing. I always thought it was a citizen's right to inquire the purpose of any public gathering in his neighborhood. If they was going to burn a cross in front of somebody's house or take somebody for a ride. I wanted them to let the civic clubs and the churches take care of that."

He said he was on his way to his brother-in-law's filling station on Northside Drive to get gasoline for his car when the officers arrested him near the intersection of Northside Drive and Belle Meade.

"Belle Meade is a narrow road—one of the oldest county roads," Bettis said. "At first they told me I was weaving down that road and I told them it was impossible to drive on that road with out weaving. Then they changed it to Collier Road, where I was supposed to be weaving."

The Klan Retains The Mask

The bill to outlaw the wearing of masks by the members of the Ku Klux Klan and others of a similar nature was defeated Thursday by a vote of 89 to 65 in the House. There was not enough sentiment among the members of the legislature to banish the practice. In an editorial less than a week ago, we took the position then that there was little reason, if any, to suppose that members of a Georgia House would be willing to stand up and be counted, in the presence of members of the Klan, to whom it could be supposed, they may owe allegiance in one or another way. We took that position because of the free hand given last Summer and even now, to the Klan in flaunting the civil and political rights of citizens who have every claim to a decent and honest chance to citizenship treatment. White newspapermen were severely beaten by the Klan and nothing was done to bring them to account. White citizens of great community prominence have been threatened by members of the Klan and still they enjoy the liberty of any upstanding citizen. And worse than that, the Klan intimidated the Chancellor and the presidents of colleges in The University System of Georgia last September when they drove three Negro college presidents and their assistants from a meeting at Milledgeville, where they had been commanded by the Chancellor.

Nevertheless, even in the defeat, all is not dark. The days of the Klan, in Georgia and throughout the South, are numbered. The fact that in a Georgia House, mainly under the influence and control of Talmadge forces, could muster up enough independent legislators who are willing to stand up and be counted, is not a bad sign of things to come. It means that the 65 members will increase to a much larger circle within the next two years, and by that time there will be enough Christain men who will not only insist upon unmasking that nefarious group, but will vote to outlaw them. And no matter how much cheap publicity we may see in the papers by the spokesmen for the Klan, one thing is crystal clear, the Klan is on its way out. We shall be disappointed if the present 81st Congress does not take specific action curbing certain of its activities.

Credit for introduction of the bill must go to Representatives John Greer of Lanier County and M. M. "Muggsy" Smith of Fulton County .These men, as well as the other 63 were good and brave enough to make a show of hands on the issue, despite Klan pressure

RALPH McGILL

The Final Trump on May 25

A gentleman from McDonough, Ga., has contributed a letter to our "Pulse of the Public" column in which he asks concerning certain reactions which might be aroused by an announcement that on May 25 the end of time would arrive hard on the heels of the last echo from Gabriel's trumpet blast at 11 a. m. on that morning.

"What," he asks, "would a four-carat diamond be worth? Would the Ku Klux Klan put on their robes? . . . How much money would be drawn from the banks? . . . What would be the highest bid for a seat in church? . . . These are but a few of his questions. They intrigue me, but I find myself, somehow, left calm by them. Indeed, it seems to me that the good brother feels most of his fellow men are not ready for the last trump and there would be a mighty scramble for a seat in church and a great chorus of prayers, filling the earth like the sound of a rushing torrent; and that perhaps there would be a fearful and hideous panic with hysterical, fear-maddened millions fleeing here and there in futile and piteous effort to escape the inescapable.

Man

Well, I don't know. I have an idea there would be considerable praying and numerous instances of the aberrations of mankind's weaknesses. But, I believe there would be more—many more—instances of man's dignity and inherent courage in the face of great decision.

I am sure the churches would have special services which would be well attended. But, I doubt if there would be any great

crush at the doors, with persons trampling others in an effort to get in. There might, Brother Rodgers, be a few churches where even the pastor didn't show up. There always are a few, every year, who elope with the contralto in the choir.

I fell pretty sure, too, the night clubs would get a big play from those who figure the jig is up and they might as well have one last, big fling. There would be others who would figure it was all an error, or that there would be a change in plans. A few would go to pieces.

I doubt if there would be much buying and selling in the diamond marts and there would be mighty few indeed to inquire as to the market fluctuations in gold.

KKK I feel very sure indeed the Ku Klux Klan would not don their robes. Even the Ku Klux wouldn't want to be caught dead in those things. Offhand, I can think of no more embarrassing moment than for a soul to present itself at the awful seat of judgment clad in one of those obscene KKK nightgowns. I imagine most members would resign so as to be able to say so at judgment.

Brother Rodgers says he does not mean his comment to be sacrilegious. I'm sure he doesn't. Neither do I.

Work I believe I would work late on the night of May 24 to help get out the very best paper possible. It seems to me highly important that the final morning have its morning newspaper. I believe it would be comforting and helpful. I'd try to write a column in which I would attempt to give assurance to those who would read it the next morning in the last hours before Gabriel wetted his lips and raised the trumpet. I would point out that all along God has been telling us that He is a merciful God. I would argue that a man who had done the best he could and who had not knowingly harmed other persons—who hasn't been proud and arrogant—would probably get a good deal, even though he was short on theology.

I would try to help out on the front page all the news from other countries telling how the peoples of the world were taking it and what they were doing in preparation.

Irony The ironic thing, Brother Rodgers, is that several millions in the far reaches of the earth would not hear about it and would not know anything about it until the end came. I figure it would come pretty quick, because fire such as Revelations promises would burn all the oxygen off the face of the earth and the fire itself would not last long. Few would get burned.

Anyhow, once I had helped put the paper to bed and heard the presses start rolling, I'd go home to my family. I don't think I'd be in a panic. I imagine my face would look like those of the men I saw go off in the bombers over Germany in 1943-45—or like the faces of the troops committed to battle. I'd like to think so. I don't know. But I believe I could manage that without too much effort. I'd be awfully curious. I certainly wouldn't want to wait in the house. I'd want to be out where I could see the first glow of it and watch it coming.

In closing, Brother Rodgers, if you have any inside information—if your letter isn't really just a letter to the paper but a hint to the wise—I'd appreciate your letting me know. We'd like to get some type big enough for the banner line. Sun. 7-24-49

The Law Above The Law

Georgia's Attorney General Eugene Cook, speaking Saturday night at Augusta, said that the government of the South today unlike that of the South in Reconstruction days, has strong legislative, judicial and executive wings which clothe public officials with adequate authority to govern the people well.

But, he said: "To yield to any organization the prerogative for exercising police power without constitutional authority is to plead guilty to an indictment that our entire system of government is politically bankrupt."

Thus, while in one section of the state Mr. Cook was speaking out against the evil influence of the Klan, over at Soperton, the Mayor Jim Peterson, took it upon himself and made use of the law, which Mr. Cook said public officials are clothed with, and proceeded to jerk or tear off the mask from a klansman.

The Mayor, accepting the praise of the public for his heroism and courage in putting the klan members in their place, told the newsmen that he did what any "red-blooded" American would have done. "I am not a prize fighter, neither am I an invalid," Mayor Peterson said.

What a splendid contrast the Mayor's example is above that of certain officials who are sympathetic with the aim and objectives of the Klan! It proves again our oft-repeated truth that the Klan nor any other force, including members of the lynching party, can go no further than local enforcement officials will permit them to go.

Let Georgia have more public officials like Mayor Peterson and soon there will be statewide respect for the laws and for constituted authority. As things stand now, citizens, in many parts of the state, elect to obey the laws they want and disregard those they do not choose to obey.

Behind The Headlines

Journal & Guide
Norfolk, Va.

Mayor Jim Peterson of Soperton, Georgia, A Twentieth Century Saint George

By ALBERT L. HINTON

AMONG THE MANY millions of things I never knew till now is the fact that there is located in the South Georgia turpentine belt a little municipality called Soperton. The reputation of the Cracker State in certain respects being what it is this will occasion no particular surprise, I am sure. But the fact that there actually exists, ANYWHERE in Georgia, a man who will openly defy the iniquitous Ku Klux Klan, will cause some lifting of eyebrows, to say the least.

MR. HINTON

You read the story in the newspapers last week, and if your reaction was anything like mine, you came to the conclusion that what this country needs much more desperately than a good five-cent cigar is an ample supply of men like Jim Peterson, Soperton's fearless two-fisted mayor.

Out of the welter of confusion and righteous indignation which has attended the post-war resurgence of the white-robed hooded order now comes the refreshing saga of a twentieth-century Saint George who dared challenge the dragon of racial intolerance and white supremacy—and lived to tell it.

Sat. 6-4-49

As the story goes Mayor Peterson, serving his ninth term, received a call last Saturday night that three men in full Ku Klux Klan regalia, were wandering around the streets frightening the town's women residents. The mayor rushed out, and, without so much as a how-do-you-do, yanked the masks off the trio and had them tossed into jail. His Honor then added a last defiant touch to the proceedings by announcing that he, himself, may act as both judge and jury at the trial of the would-be terrorists.

At last reports the hooded hoodlums were at liberty under bonds of $100 each and are scheduled to appear in Soperton's recorder's court on June 13 to answer charges of disturbing the peace.

* * * *

MAYOR PETERSON, incidentally, is a brother of former U. S. Representative Hugh Peterson and has served on the board of regents of Georgia's university system under three governors, a fact which may, or may not partially explain his "rash" action.

In any case, the Soperton incident again serves to heavily underscore what has been diagnosed in some quarters as an epidemic of Ku Klux Klan fever characterized by a series of floggings which appears to have broken out simultaneously in widely scattered sections of the deep South.

Among those who failed to wax enthusiastic over Mayor Peterson's daring demonstration of living dangerously was one Dr. Samuel Green, self-styled grand dragon of the "Knights of the Invisible Empire." From Atlanta the grand dragon—of all people—charged that Mayor Peterson over-stepped his authority, and termed his action a clear violation of the masked men's civil rights!

Quite indignantly, he declared: "Using a common expression, we don't like our dogs kicked around by mayors or anyone else. If he did jerk their hoods off, he is in violation of their civil rights just as if I went into his office and jerked his hat off."

Sat. 6-4-49 * * *

BE THAT AS IT MAY, my guess is that Soperton's two-fisted mayor has simply discovered that the basis of all anti-minority sentiment is some kind of fear, however vaguely defined; that this fear is often produced by misinformation, or complete lack of information about a given minority; and that clearly, the one way to combat anti-minority sentiment is to provide as much correct information about each minority as possible.

And, obviously, Mayor Peterson and all others of his ilk, have learned that its easy to hate someone you don't know, or to fear something you don't understand; that its hard to hate someone with whose problems you are familiar. And, by the same token, that one of the most difficult feats in the world is to be fearful in the shining light of adequate knowledge.

GEORGIA KILLS BILL TO ELIMINATE KLAN

Times-Picayune
New Orleans, La.

(International News Service)

Atlanta, Jan. 20.—A bill to outlaw the Ku Klux Klan was killed today after a two-hour debate in the Georgia House of Representatives.

The measure which would have prohibited the wearing of masks in public was killed by a vote of 89-65 with several lawmakers present but abstaining from voting. Fri. 1-21-49

The vote ended two hours of heated discussion during which the Klan was defended by at least one legislator as a defense "against Communism."

The bill was killed on a motion to indefinitely postpone action.

Gentlemen, Our Congratulations

Atlanta Constitution

Atlanta's City Council yesterday voted unanimously to create an ordinance banning the wearing of masks on the streets of Atlanta.

That makes us happy. The City of Atlanta has done a good deed. The Council will be congratulated by every thoughtful citizen. The ordinance is aimed at the Klan, but also at any other organization which tries to mask its face and commit violence under the cover of a mask.

The Klan is a civic and moral cancer. It brings sorrow everywhere it exists. It corrupts police forces, sheriffs' offices, and some courts. It also corrupts individuals.

It is not without reason the United States has declared it to be a subversive organization. Its organizers enrich themselves at the expense of $10 suckers and encourage violence to entice the unwary.

So, we join all other good citizens in congratulating the Council, the author of the bill, Councilman Archie Lindsey; the fine young men of the Junior Chamber, and the older ones of the Grand Jurors' Association, all of whom recommended the bill. *Tues-5-3-49*

Five Indicted In KKK Flogging

Montgomery Advertiser

TRENTON, GA., May 10—(AP)—Sheriff J. W. Lynch, three deputies and a pivate citizen were indicted here today on assault charges in the flogging of seven Negroes by hooded men reported to be members of the Ku Klux Klan. *Montgomery, Ala.*

The Dade County grand jury returned the indictments after the seven Negroes came here from Chattanooga today to testify. They were escorted by Georgia Bureau of Investigation agents and state troopers. *Wed-5-11-49*

The officers were charged with assault and battery and failure to suppress mob violence. The deputies indicted are W. M. Hartline, N. Stokes McCauley and John Bleckley. Robert Keener was indicted on an assault charge.

Judge John H. Paschall ordered the men to make appearance bonds of $1.000 each.

IT WAS HUSHED UP to save some red faces, but the House Un-American Activities Committee almost hired a former Ku Klux Klansman as its chief counsel. By accident, the job was promised by Chairman John Wood of Georgia who got his start in politics fighting the Klan.

The ex-Klansman, who was all set to take the post, was J. Walter Le Craw, an Atlanta attorney. In fact, he came to Washington expecting the committee's routine approval. *Tues 5-10-49*

Interviewed behind closed doors, however, Le Craw was about to be dismissed when Congressman Francis Case, South Dakota Republican, asked whether Le Craw had ever belonged to the Klan. He admitted joining back in the Klan's heyday but said he had broken off all ties long ago.

Nevertheless, since the Klan is on the list of un-American organizations the committee is supposed to investigate, congressmen decided it would be wiser not to hire a former Klansman to run the investigation.

Afterward Congressman Wood explained to Case that he hadn't known Le Craw belonged to the Klan. "I have known him for many years," Wood said incredulously, "and I never suspected he belonged. If I had known, I wouldn't have brought him up here."

Detroit Free Press

WHEN you consider it, a man in a sort of Halloween costume with skirts entangling his shins is bound to look pretty futile and foolish if somebody makes trouble for him. For a long time it's been our idea that Ku Klux Klansmen would appear wholly silly and not at all terrifying if anybody ever pushed them around a little.

The accuracy of this impression has now been demonstrated at Soperton, Ga., where Mayor Jim Peterson got mad when he heard masked Klansmen were roaming around Soperton's streets. Peterson ran out and began yanking off masks.

Two of the wearers lit out for the city limits, with a couple of random shots from the police chief's pistol helping them to keep their minds on their footwork. Another three, docile and abashed, were led off to the town cooler. *Detroit Free Press*

Over in Atlanta the Klan's Grand Dragon whined that his followers' "civil rights" had been infringed. That's all there was to it except that the collared trio must stand trial for disturbing the peace—a commonplace, tawdry charge bound to hurt the feelings of a man who has built up a lot of romantic notions about himself. *Detroit, Mich.*

With just a few more Jim Petersons around, we're sure that the Klan would die of embarrassment. It's awfully hard on a man's pride to find the false face he put on to scare people getting him nothing but laughs.

Georgia Will Try Three Ku Kluxers

SOPERTON, GA., June 12—(AP)—A south Georgia mayor, who ripped masks off three men in Ku Klux Klan outfits will bring them to trial Monday.

Mayor James Peterson, serving his ninth term in this tiny turpentine town, may be judge and jury himself.

He is acting as judge of recorder's court, where the three men will be charged with disturbing the peace.

He said today they are "good fellows" but were just "led astray." *6-13-49*

Peterson ran out from his office Saturday night, May 21, after receiving reports that women were frightened by hooded and masked men roaming the streets.

He yanked the masks off three men and called the police chief to put them in jail. Two other hooded figures ran, with the police chief sending a volley of bullets after them. *6-13-49*

Since the incident, Mayor Peterson has been receiving a variety of reaction ranging from President Truman's praise to condemnation from Ku Klux Klan Grand Dragon Samuel Green.

Masks Banned By Augusta Law

Constitution

AUGUSTA—(AP)—City Council yesterday passed an ordinance prohibiting the wearing of masks in public places.

There were three votes cast against the ordinance.

The ordinance forbids masked parades or any other demonstrations by organizations, but exempts children at play and theatrical groups.

Grand Jurors Support Mask

Ban Measure

Full support behind an ordinance to ban masked demonstrations in Atlanta was given Saturday by the Fulton County Grand Jurors Association.

Tomorrow, Councilman Archie Lindsey is slated to introduce an anti-mask ordinance at a meeting of City Council. The ordinance does not mention the Klan but is aimed directly at it.

The ordinance would make it unlawful for any person, while masked to appear on, or in any public place in the city of Atlanta. Exempted are children under 17 persons wearing face coverings for occupational hazards, those wearing holiday or theatrical costumes, or persons wearing gas masks in emergencies. *Sun. 5-1-49*

The Atlanta Junior Chamber of Commerce is behind the anti?mask measure.

Georgia Klan Trio Wins First Round Of Row With Mayor

Birmingham, Ala.

SOPERTON, Ga., June 14—(AP)—Three Ku Klux Klansmen, unmasked and brought to trail by Mayor James Peterson, have been cleared of disorderly conduct charges. But two other legal actions still threaten them.

The disorderly charges were dismissed yesterday in Recorder's Court for lack of evidence.

The hooded order thus won the first round of a legal battle with this small southeast Georgia town's mayor, James Peterson. The mayor personally jerked the masks off the three members of the Klan, had them jailed and brought to trial.

The trio's innocence or guilt on a charge of loitering is in the hands of Mayor Pro Tem James Waller, who acted as judge and jury.

And Police Chief M. D. Ware said he will bring still another charge — carrying concealed weapons — against the Klansmen in city court.

Mayor Peterson, who started out to try the men himself, stepped down after defense attorneys objected and served notice of intent to sue him for false arrest and violation of civil rights.

One of the defendants, a farm and wooden mill worker, told how the mayor dashed up to him and the other hooded figures while they were directing traffic "to our meeting place." *Tue. 6-14-49*

"The mayor," testified Joe Greene, "said what the hell are you doing here. Mr. Peterson then attacked and jerked off my hood."

Mayor Peterson, praised by President Truman for his anti-Klan action, did not testify at the hearing.

Only Greene was tried, but the decision in his case will stand for the other two defendants—Malcolm Braddy, a mechanic, and John Edge, night watchman for the State Highway Department.

Thompson Hits Violence, Lawlessness In Georgia

Former Georgia Governor Melvin E. Thompson, said Friday that if given a chance, the citizens of Georgia would cast their votes against the masking of the Klan in this state. Mr. Thompson made this announcement after he had levelled criticism against the recent legisla-

...for failure to enact a law to unmask the Klan, in an address at an American Legion luncheon meeting in Atlanta.

Mr. Thompson called attention to the April 5 special election and said an affirmative vote on proposed new taxes, which he predicted, would mean a special session of the legislature shortly thereafter. "There is only one way in which the General Assembly may by appropriate action allay the fears and shame rapidly developing among our people." The former Georgia executive said "That would be for the purpose the Assembly in special session to be in position to pass the law unmasking the Ku Klux Klan and thereby destroy its effectiveness for injury in Georgia. It is therefore, hoped that the governor will include in his call a provision making it possible for the General Assembly to give the people of Georgia expanded state protection." [Sun.]

HITS REFERENDUM

Mr. Thompson also took occasion to point to the fallacy in the submission of a referendum for the voters to say "yes or "No" rather than have the legislature so decide. "Many still believe this is the responsibility which the General Assembly should have assumed without the necessity of public initiative or referendum."

He gave in addition, a back hand slap at the recently engineered reregistration law, passed by the legislature. "The people are also fearful of their future rights as voters in view of this so-called law."

GEORGIA MAYOR RIPS OFF MASKS

[The Times-Picayune]

Has Trio Arrested on Disorderly Charges

[New Orleans, La.]

(The Associated Press)

Soperton, Ga., May 22—The mayor of a small South Georgia town told Sunday of ripping off the masks of "three men in Ku-Klux Klan regalia who frightened several ladies."

Then, Mayor Jim Peterson reported, he had the three arrested on disorderly conduct charges last night. [5-23-49 Mon]

Free on $100 bond, they are to appear in recorder's court Monday.

Peterson, a brother of former Georgia Congressman Hugh Peterson, said he received a call from several women who were "worried by robed men wandering around the streets."

Glasses Knocked Off

Investigating, he said he met two hooded, robed men near his home. He asked them what they were doing and, when they refused to answer, stripped off their masks.

Peterson said one of them, whom he identified as Malcolm Braddy, a mechanic, struck him, knocking off his glasses.

The other he named as Joe Greene, farm and woolen mill worker.

Peterson called policeman M. D. Ware, who took the two to jail. Then he and Ware drove around in a car and found three other robed men on the streets.

The mayor related he unmasked one but the others fled as Ware fired once with his pitsol.

Third Man Arrested

The third man arrested was listed as John Edge, night watchman for the state highway department. [Mon 5-23-49]

Ware said, "A few crosses have been burned in Soperton, the latest one a month ago, but we haven't had any serious trouble from the Klan."

Soperton is a town of 1500 in Treutlen county, South Central Georgia.

The Klan recently was placed on Atty. Gen. Tom Clark's list of subversive organizations.

KKK's Win 1st Round in Demask Case

[Constitution] [Atlanta, Ga.]

Soperton's Mayor Quits Bench on Suit Note; Disorder Charge Fails

By CHARLES BARRETT

SOPERTON—(AP)—Mayor James Peterson lost the first round yesterday in an effort to convict three men from whom he tore Ku Klux masks.

Charges of disorderly conduct against the hooded, white-robed trio were dismissed in Recorder's Court for lack of evidence.

Charges of disorderly conduct against the hooded, white-robed trio were dismissed in Recorder's Court for lack of evidence.

But Mayor Pro Tem James Waller, who heard the case after Mayor Peterson stepped down as judge, withheld his decision on charges of loitering.

The case probably was the South's first effort to convict Klansmen merely for appearing on city streets in their white regalia.

Joe Greene, farm and woolen mill worker, whose case became the test for all three, described how the Mayor ran out to him and the others while they were directing traffic "to our meeting place. [Atlanta, Ga.]

"The Mayor," he testified, "said 'what the hell are you doing here?' Mr. Peterson then attacked, and jerked off my hood."

Defense Attorney T. Ross Sharpe shouted in the steaming, jam-packed hearing room—the rear of a bank: [6-14-49 Tue.]

"Everybody knows the only reason in the world we are trying this case is because these men were wearing hoods and robes.

"Are you going to say to the 391 Klansmen in this county that everybody else—even the Communists and Henry Wallace—are welcome here, but you Klansmen are criminal.

"Forget the Ku Klux Klan and think of this matter as if it involved Shriners or churches.

"Would they be persecuted just because they wore white, the symbol of purity ever since the death of our Savior?

"There is no law against wearing hoods or being a Klansman. You can put on your white nightgown and walk down the street if you want to."

Mayor Peterson, who was praised by President Truman for his unmasking feat, stepped down as judge after protests from defense attorneys.

They objected after filing notice of intention to sue the Mayor for false arrest and violation of civil rights.

The city introduced evidence that Green and Malcolm Braddy, a mechanic and another defendant, had guns hidden under their robes. [Tue. 6-14-49]

The testimony was stricken from the record after objections that charges of carrying concealed weapons should be heard in City Court, not Recorder's Court.

Police Chief M. D. Ware said he would file charges on this count in City Court later.

Evidence was that Mrs. I. H. Hall saw five robed figures and called the Mayor and said she was frightened.

"In a town of 1,500 people, only two of them were frightened," Sharpe declared, "a nervous woman and Jim Peterson. I don't know why they were scared. I'm not scared of the Ku Klux—maybe Jim's conscience was bothering him."

The third defendant is John Edge, nightwatchman for the State Highway Department.

The other two hooded figures fled down the street as Chief Ware sent a bullet at them.

"This is the first case I have ever tried," said Mayor Pro Tem Waller, a well-to-do businessman. "These men on both sides are all friends of mine. Joe Green farmed for me for two to three years.

"I'm going to dismiss this disorderly conduct charge but I want to think a little about the loitering charge."

The decision in Greene's case will stand for the other two.

Mayor Peterson did not testify.

Mayor Peterson Hailed For Routing Klan

[Atlanta Daily World] [Atlanta Ga] [Wed. 5-25-49]

SOPERTON, Ga.—(SNS)—Mayor Jim Peterson remained the most talked of man in Georgia following last week's incident when three men were jailed for disturbing the peace.

Despite threats of reprisals and of legal action from Klan-supporters the public enthusiastically endorsed his action and the newspapers of the nation were high in praise of Mayor Peterson's courage.

Rep. John Greer, of Lanier County who introduced a bill in the recent legislature to unmask the Klan praised Mayor Peterson for routing the Klan. [Wed. 5-25-49]

Rep. Greer said "The vigorous and courageous stand taken against a bunch of hooded hoodlums in Soperton Saturday night by Mayor Jim Peterson deserves and surely will bring him the thanks and commendatio nof every good citizen of the State of Georgia.

"His action should set a yardstick for the city and county officials of our State, many of whom are moving week by week to outlaw masked bands and parades and lawless acts in their localities.

"One of the significant things about the affair at Soperton was the newspaper account of who took to their heels and did the running. The Klansmen, Dr. Green seems to have admitted they belonged to him—beat it for the woods and left Jim Peterson in command of the field. He has performed a splendid act of citizenship that will be of everlasting benefit to his town and state."

In Atlanta Dr. Samuel Green, titular head of the Ku Klux Klan was adamant his belief that Mayor Peterson "was in violation of Civil Rights as if I went into his office and jerked off his hat."

Meanwhile Police Chief M. B. Ware identified the arrested men as Joe Green, Malcom Braddy, and Johnson Edge. They were released on $100 bonds and their trial have been set for City Court June 13.

State Legion Eases on Klan; Elects Hearn

[The Constitution] [Atlanta Ga.]

AUGUSTA—(AP)—A watered-down resolution condemning "subversive" groups, but not mentioning the Ku Klux Klan by name, and the election by acclaim of George "Beau" Hearn, of Monroe, as State Commander, yesterday climaxed the State American Legion convention here. [Mon. 6-13-49]

Legionnaires who previously had drawn a strongly worded resolution condemning the KKK as "un-American, subversive, criminal in methods and ungodly," expressed disappointment over what they termed the "weak" wording in yesterday's resolution. [6-13-49]

Victor over two opponents in the race for Senior Vice Commander was John B. Brock, of Adairsville, who defeated Goodman Robertson, of Newnan, and William Todd, of Atlanta.

Seated as Junior Vice Commanders were James Roberts, Third District; Ray Houston, Second District; Fred T. Allen, Eighth District; Ben Ehrlich, First District.

For the office of chaplain, Legionnaires named the Rev. Harrison H. Black, of Toccoa. John J. McCrear, of Macon, was elected Historian, and Mrs. Margaret Giles, of Atlanta, was re-elected Department Treasurer.

Roscoe A. Long's election as Tenth District Commander was confirmed, and the convention voted to send to the national convention from the Tenth District J. R. Turner, of Madison, Long, John B. Gordon, of Hartwell, and George A. Harth, of Augusta.

In convention at the same time, the State Legion Auxiliary named Mrs. Guy O. Stone, of Glenwood, President; Mrs. E. J. Ennis, of Brunswick, Vice President (First); Mrs. Charles Morgan, of Newnan, Second Vice President; Mrs. Ruth Hill Reid, of Rochelle, Historian; Mrs. G. C. Moon, of Gainesville, Chaplain.

The outgoing Auxiliary President, Mrs. P. M. Wise, of Winder, was elevated to the rank of National Executive Committeewoman, and Mrs. A. M. Lowery, of Atlanta, was named alternate. Guy O. Stone, of Glenwood, was re-elected National Executive Committeeman. William L. Kilroy, Sr., of Savannah, defeated Roscoe Pickett, of Jasper, in a close race for alterante national executive committeeman.

The Legion's award for distinguished service was presented senior U. S. Senator Walter F. George, a Gold Star father. It was made for his efforts in behalf of veterans and for his stand against the economy act of the 1930's.

Other resolutions adopted included: Prohibition of posts from awarding distinguished citations to any non-Legionnaires without approval of the State Executive Committee.

Commendation of the two Augusta posts for joint efforts in providing recreational facilities for enlisted men at Camp Gordon, with a recommendation that other Legion posts near service installations follow suit.

Commendation for Attorney General Tom Clark and the U. S. Department of Justice for their work in identifying disloyal Americans.

Unanimous support of the work of the National Association of Soil Conservation Supervisors.

A call for the deportation of Communists.

On invitation of Ben T. Watkins, of Macon, Chef de Gare of the 40 and 8, and also from Louis Wilson, the Mayor of Macon, the convention voted unanimously to hold the 1950 convention in that city.

State Legion awards included: Basil Stockbridge Trophy to William Conger, of the Second District.

William Parker, Jr., Trophy to Bona Allen III, of the Ninth District.

Delacy Allen Trophy and the Hoyt Wimpy Trophy to John Brock, new Senior Vice Commander.

Louis S. Moore Trophy to Lee Carter, of the Tenth District.

Edgar Dunlap Trophy to Weldon Archer, Commander of Post 127, Buford.

Al Henson Trophy to Gordon Robertson, of the Fourth District.

Julius Ulman Trophy to Charles E. Ward, Commander of Post 29 of Marietta.

J. P. Kelly Trophy to Bona Allen III.

Gordon Robertson Trophy won by Gordon Robertson.

David R. Hirsch Trophy to W. R. Chandler, of Post 88, Manchester.

For the first time at an Auxiliary convention, the Stella Moore Woodward Trophy, presented by Mrs. P. M. Wise in memory of her mother, went to Mrs. J. Glenn Strickland, of Columbus, an outstanding unit President.

Georgia Klan Chief Forbids Masks

Atlanta, Aug. 8 (AP)—Georgia's Ku Klux Klan was unmasked today by the "imperial edict" of it's wizard after South Georgians had gone gunning for robed night riders.

Wizard Samuel Green said henceforth members of his Association of Georgia Klans would junk their hoods to keep the Klan from being blamed for the acts of others.

Green's order followed a shooting scrape in Iron City, Ga., in which the Town's Mayor, C. L. Drake, and a group of friends swapped shots with a motorcade of robed Klansmen.

The "imperial wizard" said his organization was not involved in the affair and blamed the incident on a "Bolshevik" group operating out of Columbus.

Races 38 Miles to Get His Man.

Meanwhile, Mayor Drake and Klansmen found themselves involved in charges and countercharges.

The Klansmen left Iron City after midnight Saturday, pursued by flying lead—and subsequently, by the Mayor.

Mayor Drake raced 38 miles to Dothan, Ala., sometimes at a speed of 100 miles per hour, after a Klan official.

In Dothan he had the man, booked as Bill Hendrix of Tallahassee, Fla., arrested on a warrant charging assault with intent to murder. Hendrix later was released under a $500 bond.

The Mayor returned to his home town and there was subjected to a warrant charging attempted murder.

The warrant was taken out by James Beard, who identified himself as the Iron City's Klavern's cyclops.

Beard charged the Mayor fired at him as the Klansmen held a pre-announced parade.

Both the Mayor and the cyclops were put under $500 peace bonds after a hearing before Justice of Peace J. E. Wheeler.

The Klan's Inner Troubles

The head of the Georgia Ku Klux Klan took two steps Monday which indicate that the Klan as an organization is beginning to disintegrate. The pressure of public opinion backed by a number of legal actions is beginning to tell. What was not done in Georgia by act of the Legislature—the dehooding of the Klan—was done by order from the chief of the Klan himself. In addition, Dr. Green indefinitely suspended three Klaverns — in Chattanooga, Tenn., and in Trenton and LaFayette, Ga. The members must turn in their hoods and all other paraphernalia, he said. If they don't, he intends to publish all the names of the members.

But before we rejoice too much, let us look a little more deeply into the reasons behind these actions and examine the possible results. It should be remembered that until the public clamor aroused greater law enforcement activity, the Klan grew. There was no talk then from the Klan's officers about renegade outfits who operated in defiance of Klan traditions. It may be true that some of the floggings have been committed by men who masqueraded as Klansmen without actually being affiliated. But in a deeper sense, the Klan is guilty in such extra-legal acts in this region, for it has fostered a spirit of lawnessness and it gave the opportunity for men to act outside the law.

The cowards who flogged under cover of night, whether robed or not, are not going to change their thinking by being banished from Klan membership. Only a reawakened public opinion and effective functioning of the law can stamp out such action by misguided men. The law must function and the force of public opinion must back it up. Whether night-riders are Klansmen or not, they must be made to desist and the guilty must be punished.

Enigma Wrapped In A Sheet

Now the puzzle of the mild-mannered Casper Milquetoast with the Hitler mustache will probably remain unanswered. Dr. Samuel Green, fanatical ruler of the Ku Klux Klan is dead, an enigma to the grave. Probably a psychiatrist could explain the why of Dr. Green, and that in technical terms which would perplex the average man.

Few reporters who interviewed the energetic 59-year-old physician would deny that he believed with utmost sincerity his own contentions that the Klan "is not a hate group" and needed to fight communism and "keep Negroes in their place."

Side-by-side on the walls of his Atlanta office hung a medal of merit award from the U. S. Congress for "faithful and loyal service" and a certificate showing that he was a charter member of the Atlanta Kiwanis Club. He was the first Kiwanis governor of Georgia.

In a nearby closet could usually be found the shiny, green satin ceremonial gown of the Invisible Empire which he lorded.

The rolls of Delta Tau Delta, Masonry and Knight Templars also carried the name of this innocuous-appearing graduate of Emory University and Eclectic Medical College of Cincinnati.

This man generally accused of directing campaigns of intolerance and hate was a prominent Atlanta obstetrician. For almost 40 years, women have relied upon him in their supreme hour.

Many of the youngsters whom he ushered into the world were no doubt among the some 3,000 inductees whom he examined for World War II, the one called a conflict for equality and justice.

Probably some of them wear the robe of the Klan.

For 12 years prior to 1946, Dr. Green taught boys and girls their Sunday School lessons in an Atlanta church.

Green, a native of Atlanta, joined the KKK in 1924. His genius for organization and his fetish for White Supremacy evinced themselves early in the ultra-secret white-sheeted knights. He was quickly hustled to the top ranks of the robed outfit.

Through numerous disfranchisements and dissolutions, the balding, bespectacled Green clung staunchly to the skulking body, seemingly impervious to the sensational storms of public and private criticism from press and pulpit.

For many years he was known as the Grand Dragon. Only recently he became the Imperial Wizard of the Ku Klux Klan.

Despite his 25 years of Klan membership, his family asked that the hooded and robed organization go unmentioned in his obituary. And so, we may conclude that even his family could not understand him.

MADE KLAN CROSSES, GEORGIA OFFICER SAYS

ATLANTA, Dec. 8 (UP)—A Georgia deputy sheriff admitted at a Ku Klux Klan terrorism trial today that he had built crosses for the robed order's fiery rituals.

In Alabama, defense witnesses at a similar trial attacked the character of a man who had described abductions and beatings by a robed mob.

Both at Rome, Ga., and Birmingham, Ala., the Klan was pictured as an organization beyond the law which devised its own crude moral code and terrorized those who violated it.

Ten persons, including a sheriff and three deputies, were on trial in Federal Court at Rome charged with violating the civil rights of seven Negroes who were flogged. A. Byrd Carradine, one of eighteen men indicted on flogging charges, was the defendant in Birmingham Circuit Court.

Deputy Sheriff William H. Hartline of Dade County, Ga., one of the four indicted officers, told the Rome jury that he built two crosses for the Klan to use last April 2, the night the Negroes were flogged.

He built them at the request of William Arp, Klan organizer, said Hartline, but denied that he himself was a Klansman or had taken part in the raid near Hooker, Ga.

In Birmingham, attorneys almost came to blows over the seating of a defense witness, Emily Foshee, who sought to prove the state's ace witness a bigamist.

Klan Head Orders Members Unmasked, Lays Violence to 'Irresponsible Persons'

Special to The New York Times.

ATLANTA, Ga., April 8—Dr. Samuel Green, Imperial Wizard of the Association of Georgia Klans, today ordered Klansmen not to wear masks as a result of violence blamed on the Ku Klux Klan.

The edict said, "* * * it shall be illegal and unlawful for any member of the Association of Georgia Klans (either male or female) to be or appear, upon any street, road or highway in these United States, wearing a mask or visor. Violation of this edict shall be punishable by banishment from the Klan."

Dr. Green explained his action by saying that "certain irresponsible persons have used what appeared to be Klan robes and masks to commit certain unlawful acts."

These acts "have brought unjust criticism against Klansmen," he continued, and "to remove any cloud which might be cast upon the Klan in the future, I issue this imperial edict * * *."

In April, 1940, James A. Colescott, then the Imperial Wizard, ordered Klansmen to destroy their visors.

Dr. Green's order followed a series of terroristic acts blamed on the Klan. The latest was yesterday when the one-armed Mayor of Iron City, Ga., and some of his friends exchanged shots with twelve to fifteen carloads of hooded men who rode into town.

The Mayor, C. L. Drake, said he didn't have a gun, but some of his friends peppered the convoy with shotgun and pistol fire. The masked men retaliated with a volley of shots that "came within a few feet of me," the Mayor added.

Heard Screams, Laughter, Klansman Tells Flog Court

By BEM PRICE

ROME—(AP)—A Ku Klux Klansman told yesterday of a black night, robed men and screaming Negroes.

And Brady Boatner, a weatherbeaten 49-year-old farmer from Sand Mountain, added: "There was some a-laughing."

Boatner appeared as a witness in the mass civil rights trial of 12 Dade County men in Federal District Court here.

He took the stand not long after another witness, William H. Wilhite, accused an agent of Georgia's counterpart of the Federal Bureau of Investigation of "trying to whitewash" the flogging of seven Negroes.

The Government charges the 12 men conspired to have the Negroes seized, carried away and beaten by Ku Klux Klansmen.

The defendants are Dade County Sheriff John W. Lynch, his three deputies and eight private citizens.

Boatner identified himself as the un-robed Klansman who lit the cross which preceded, the Government says, the seizure of the Negroes.

He went to the cross burning, Boatner continued, with Truman Purcell, previously identified by other witnesses as Exalted Cyclops of the Provisional Dade County Klavern.

Purcell is one of the defendants.

Though he asserted he did not see the actual flogging, Boatner declared, "I could hear them licks and I was 50 to 75 yards away."

Boatner grinned.

How loud were the Negroes screaming?

"Well," answered Boatner, "that'd be mighty near impossible to tell, Brother. I reckon them boys were hollering about as loud as they could." He grinned again.

He denied hearing anybody "a-cussing," but said there was "some a-laughing."

As a self-identified long-time Klansman, Boatner was asked to point out any of the defendants he had ever seen at Klan meetings.

Boatner named Purcell, Terrell T. Wheeler, Sam Peters, and Deputy William Hartline.

He said Peters, a Primitive Baptist Church minister, "done the praying" at the Klan sessions.

Witness Wilhite told the court that another of the defendants, Robert Keener, came to his crossroads store in the New England Community Sunday, April 3, and told of seeing "some Negroes whipped."

Wilhite said he asked Keener "where was the sheriff and the law?" and that Keener answered "they was there watching."

Later, Wilhite related, agent James B. Hillin of the Georgia Bureau of Investigation asked for a statement about Keener.

The witness said Hillin insistently asked, "wouldn' you say Keener was drunk?" Wilhite declared that Hillin was so determined to have an answer to the question that "I got mad at him trying to make me say something that was a falsehood x x x seem like he was trying to whitewash the whole thing and I broke it off there."

The Federal Grand Jury, which returned the original incidents, met again yesterday to resume investigation of the floggings.

GEORGIA EX-KLANSMAN BACKS NEGRO CHARGES

ROME, Ga., Nov. 30 (UP)—A former Ku Klux Klansman today supported the testimony of Negro flogging victims that Sheriff John W. Lynch of Dade County helped a hooded mob abduct the Negroes.

Worth T. Lee, a state employe who said he was a member of the Klan in the Nineteen Twenties, told the District Court that he saw a cross burning at the home of Mamie Clay in Hooker, Ga., last April 2 and that Sheriff Lynch was there.

Mr. Lee also said he saw Sheriff Lynch help force seven Negroes into a station wagon. The prosecution charges the Negroes were beaten and threatened with hanging a little later.

The sheriff is under indictment with three of his deputies and eight civilians on charges of violating the Negroes' civil rights.

Frank Gleason, defense attorney, hung his cross-examination of Mr. Lee on the contention that Mr. Lee was antagonistic toward Sheriff Lynch. Mr. Lee admitted having a "controversy" with Lynch at the polls last election day, but said he now felt no animostiy toward the sheriff.

Reports Klan Raid On Alabama Town

IRON CITY, Ga. — C. L. Drake, one-armed mayor of this town, declared he foiled an effort by klansmen to kidnap him after they had terrorized the Negro section of the town.

According to the mayor, who also serves as school principal the attack occurred July 17, but he did not report it until 10 days later.

After intimidating residents of Barbertown, the Negro area, the robed hoodlums riding in between 20 and 30 cars, made an effort to get him, through a ruse, he said.

When it failed, he said they opened fire and he exchanged shots with them and drove them off. He could give no motive for the attack on him.

Klansman Tells Of Man Beating

ROME, GA., Dec. 1—(AP)—A Ku Klux Klansman told today of a black night, robed men and screaming Negroes.

And Brady Boatner, a weather-beaten 49-year-old farmer from Sand Mountain, added in a twangy drawl that among the Klansmen "there was some a-laughing."

Boatner appeared as a witness in the mass civil rights trial of 12 Dade County men in federal district court here.

He took the stand not long after another witness, William H. Wilhite, accused an agent of Georgia's counterpart of the Federal Bureau of Investigation of "trying to whitewash" the flogging of seven Negroes.

The government charges the 12 men conspired to have the Negroes seized, carried away and beaten by Ku Klux Klansmen.

The defendants are Dade County Sheriff John W. Lynch, his three deputies and eight private citizens.

Boatner identified himself as the un-robed Klansman who lit the cross which preceded, the government says, the seizure of the Negroes.

Sheriff Still Held

Two of 12 Ga. Mob Suspects Acquitted

ROME, Ga.—Despite a powerful array of Government witnesses a Federal jury last week freed two defendants in the mass civil rights trial in which twelve persons, including the sheriff of Dade County, were being tried for the abduction, flogging and threatening of seven Negroes at Hooker, Ga., last April 2.

Federal District Judge Frank A. Hooper directed a verdict of innocence for City Recorder John Wilkins of Trenton, Ga., and L. C. Spears of Dade County. Frank Gleason, defense attorney, had asked acquittal for all twelve defendants whom the Government accused out of a mob of about fifty whites said to have been Klansmen.

STILL ON TRIAL are Sheriff John W. Lynch of Dade County, three of his deputies and six other men said to have flogged and then threatened to hang Charles Roberts, 31, war veteran, and Mrs. Mamie Clay, from whose home the victims were taken with five other persons.

According to Worth T. Lee, a state employe and one-time member of the Klan, on the evening of the floggings he drove up to the Clay residence where he saw a Klan cross being burned on the grounds, and that in the mob assembled from a large motorcade he recognized Sheriff Lynch. He said that Lynch was one of several in the group who forced the victims into a station wagon.

Roberts, the war veteran, told the Federal jury that he asked Lynch: "You are the sheriff, can't you help us?" He added that Lynch then turned and walked away to join the hooded terrorists.

* * *

FROM THE CLAY residence the victims were taken to a colored school in the vicinity, forced to leave the station wagon one-by-one and lie on the ground . . . the men with their trousers off . . . and beaten with sticks, straps and rocks.

According to Mrs. Clay these charges are false and several whites had attempted to make her move. She testified that one white man awakened her one evening and wanted to know if she was ready to sell the home immediately. The Government attempted to prove that this was behind the flogging on the night of April 2.

— "FORTIETH IN '50" —

SHERIFF SAYS KLAN TOOK TWO PRISONERS

ROME, Ga. Dec. 9 (AP)—The Dade County Sheriff, John W. Lynch, swore today that he reached for his gun to stop Ku Klux Klan seizure of two Negro prisoners. But, he observed, he was too slow on the draw.

Even as his hand flicked to his pistol, one of the white-robed mob surrounding him and a deputy poked a hard object in his back and, the Sheriff recounted, snarled: "Don't reach for your gun."

This individual, the Sheriff said, also added: "The hell with you. We'd just as soon kill you as the Negroes."

Sheriff Lynch said he figured that hard object was a deadly weapon.

The chief law enforcement officer of Dade County, just below Chattanooga, was the last of ten defendants to take the stand in the mass civil-rights trial here.

Sheriff Lynch, three of his deputies and six private citizens are charged by the Government with conspiring to have seven Negroes arrested falsely and surrendered to Klansmen for beating.

As for those seven, the Sheriff swore he did not see them that night but only the two he was holding in the road for public drunkenness. He maintained that he had never conspired with anyone to have the Negroes arrested and beaten.

In fact, he said, his presence at Hooker Hill before the home of Mrs. Mamie Clay, a Negro, the night of April 2 was a coincidence.

The Government charges the seven Negroes were seized at the Clay home that night, immediately after a cross burning at the hill across the road.

NEGROES, STUDENTS LAUGH AT THEM

Ku Klux Now Gets a Lot of Clucks

Detroit Free Press
Detroit Michigan

ATLANTA—(AP)—The attitude of many Southerners, white and Negro, toward the Ku Klux Klan has changed.

The Klan isn't what it used to be.

At Gainesville, Ga., 50 miles north of here, a Negro woman eyed a Ku Klux Klan parade from her porch rocking chair.

A dozen hooded heads turned as she sang out, "send us yo' sheets, white folks, we'll wash 'um."

Jun-4-17-49

THE NEGROES lining the road grinned broadly and as the parade moved on, a flock of giggling Negro children fell in behind, drumming loudly on tin pans.

Last February at West Columbia, S.C., Dr. Samuel Green, grand dragon of the Association of Georgia Klans, told a crowd of Klansmen and curious that unless "white supremacy" was maintained, "the day will come when a black buck Negro may ask for your daughter's hand in marriage."

A voice on the outskirts drawled, "well, she can always say 'no,' can't she?"

Most of the hecklers at the meeting, which produced a "stink bomb," were later identified as University of South Carolina students. Police were hard put to prevent a clash between Klansmen and students.

* * *

THE TERROR or respect—take your choice—which the Klan once inspired is diminishing.

When the Klan held its big "Klanvocation" for the initiation of new members into "citizenship" near Stone Mountain, Ga., last fall, a Negro minister said he was pressed to keep his people from taking a few pot shots at men in white robes.

At Mumford, Ala., Feb. 20, a 12-year-old boy kicked over a burning cross and doused it in a water hole.

Later that night men armed with shotguns were reported on the prowl for Klansmen.

The Mumford incident prompted Alabama's Gov. James E. Folsom to order the arrest of anyone operating a car with a concealed license plate, a favorite Klan device.

* * *

SAID FOLSOM: "mobs, hooded or unhooded, are not going to rule Alabama."

The time had passed when politicians were afraid to speak out against the Klan.

Irate city councils in a half dozen cities have passed anti-mask ordinances on the heels of Klan parades—Wrightsville, Columbus and Macon, Ga., Chattanooga, Tenn., Tallahassee and Miami, Fla.

Atlanta's Junior Chamber of Commerce is pressing for a similar ban. Jun-4-17-49

A Klan parade at Denmark, S.C., brought quick reaction from Gov. Strom Thurmond who told state police to get busy enforcing laws against "intimidation" by masked men.

GREEN PROMISED Thurmond he would "banish" any Klansman guilty of violating laws.

Nobody, though, lambasted the Klan more than Gov. Fuller Warren of Florida. He called them "hooded hoodlums and sheeted jerks" after a parade through Tallahassee.

Warren said he would ask the state legislature for an anti-mask law and ordered the arrest of any-one attempting to conceal license plates.

Georgians were arrested and convicted of participation in that parade.

The recent session of the Georgia legislature saw an anti-mask law defeated 85 to 65, but Klan opponents accepted the vote as a moral victory. The margin of defeat was less than ever before.

* * *

WITHIN the pattern of change, however, there were still hangovers from the days of direct violence and intimidation.

At Trenton, Ga., Sheriff J. W. Lynch reported robed men took seven Negro prisoners from him, caried them to Hooker, Ga., and there flogged the lot.

Latest of the violence outbreaks was reported April 6 in Chattanooga, just over the Tennessee line from Trenton. A 38-year-old railway worker said five unmasked white men invaded his house and beat him severely.

The grand dragon (Dr. Green) says the Klan is "building up fast," but it is public knowledge that the Klan is bothered by internal dissensions.

* * *

LAST YEAR two large Klaverns at Manchester and Columbus, Ga., broke away to from "The Original Southern Klans, Inc."

Dr. Green terms it a "Bolshevik Group" which pulled out "because they couldn't run things." He blames them for the Tallahassee parade. Jun-4-17-49

Jun-4-17-49

Jun-4-17-49

WAIL OF TIN PAILS NOW IS HEARD WHEN THE CROSS BURNS

Dr. Green (the Grand Dragon), blames it all on "Those Bolsheviks"

Wearing of Masks Banned On Atlanta Streets Except During Fetes, on Holidays

Atlanta Constitution
Atlanta, Georgia
Tues-5-3-49

By HERMAN HANCOCK

City Council yesterday passed and Mayor Hartsfield signed an ordinance banning the wearing of masks on Atlanta streets. Thus Atlanta wrote into law a provision making it illegal to wear masks publicly except on festive occasions and on holidays.

Although the measure, offered by Councilman Archie Lindsey, of the Third Ward, was billed as an antimask ordinance, in effect it was aimed directly at the Klan.

The action was taken without comment except Lindsey's statement that there were no political implications in the measure. Lindsey appeared at the Council Chamber with a wooden plaque in the shape of a mask which he said was left at his home Sunday. The plaque had a cross burned into the wood and "K. K. K." was burned across the top. There also was red coloring intended, presumably, to represent blood.

A flood of congratulatory messages, interrupted only by two or three calls of a "harassing nature," kept Councilman Archie Lindsey's home telephone buzzing last night. Lindsey said one telephoner voiced a horse laugh, then hung up. Police protection was posted around the residence, but Lindsey said no threatening calls or incidents had occurred since his anti-mask ordinance was passed by City Council yesterday.

When Lindsey offered the measure, there was a chorus of seconds to a motion that it be placed on second reading. Lindsey then demanded the right to speak.

"When I decided to introduce it," Lindsey said, speaking on the paper, "I meant to make no reference to the Klan. I oppose masking. I believe in this paper. It is not intended to embarrass the administration or anyone else. It is not aimed particularly at the Klan. We are told there has been no Klan parade in more than 10 years.

"We had a demonstration last night. A symbol labeled Klu Klux Klan was placed at my home, and it was done under cover. I have had anonymous telephone calls which threatened me and my family. I am just taking a stand in behalf of public decency. We were told there was no need for an antimask ordinance, but I learned differently." Tues-5-3-49

After Lindsey's address, Councilman John A. White, of the Fifth Ward, demanded a roll call vote.

City Clerk Joe L. Richardson called the roll and announced "the vote is favorable, 17 to 0."

This was greeted by an outburst of applause from a crowded gallery, which favored passage. Sitting in the Council Chamber were representatives from the Atlanta Junior Chamber of Commerce and the Fulton County Grand Jurors Association. The antimask ordinance also had the endorsement of the Executive Committee of the Atlanta Civitan Club and the Atlanta Council of Christian Women.

Under provisions of the ordinance, masks are barred on persons over 17 years old, but it exempts persons who have to wear masks because of occupational hazards and festive occasions.

Judge Charges Sheriff and Deputies With Aiding Hooded Mob in Flogging

Atlanta Constitution

Constitution State News Service

CHATTANOOGA—Judge J. M. C. "Red" Townsend, of the Georgia Court of Appeals, here yesterday charged Dade Sheriff Lynch and three deputies with aiding hooded mobsters in the recent flogging of seven Negroes near Hooker, Ga. He was speaking before the Chattanooga Civitan Club.

Sat 4-16-49

Townsend quoted from an editorial in an Atlanta newspaper which charged the Sheriff of Dade County with failure to perform his duty when the mob took the Negroes.

"To this I want to add that he is a liar and a disgrace to the Democratic form of Government," he said.

When informed of Townsend's statement, Sheriff Lynch said he had no comment.

The jurist declared the Negroes who were "beaten until the blood ran down their backs" were siezed at the home of a woman whose father died fighting for American liberties in the first World War. He added that four of the Negroes beaten were veterans of the last war.

"We have already called on the FBI and we already have the identities of ten men including the Sheriff, deputies, and mobsters, he said.

Sat 4-16-49

Townsend said he would not sit quietly by and let such things happen again.

"I'm not afraid," Townsend declared, "and I don't care if my job makes enemies for me. But America is no place for anybody who can't live and stand beside people of all colors and religions."

RICKEY - ROBINSON - KLAN

Fr. 4-15-49

From where we stand with a wealth of information at our command, it looks to us as though the Ku Klux Klan, down in Georgia, has taken an irreparable defeat at the hands of Branch Rickey and Jackie Robinson during the past week.

And while it is true that the threat made by the Klan leaders against Rickey, Robinson, et al, might have meant assault and battery---assault to kill or downright murder, we are still glad these threats were ignored and Robinson played ball against the Georgia Crackers' team and won.

The whole show is well-worth parading before the eyes of the public. The Klan sought the occasion to stir up evil and race prejudice and racial hatred. But, the occasion was used by Rickey and Robinson to make goodwill among men, such as has not been seen down in Georgia. Surely, the unseen hand of Providence, must have been in the game.

In the meanwhile, we cannot forget Branch Rickey, the man who heard the call of justice and fair-play in the field of sports, and answered by assigning Jackie Robinson to a place on a major baseball team, the Brooklyn Dodgers. To do this, in the face of strong racial prejudices in this particular field of sport required guts---guts which so few men in important places have. GIVE RICKEY A BIG HAND!

The playing of the game and how he played it and won, was a big victory for Robinson over bigotry and racial hatred in the South. GIVE ROBINSON A BIG HAND!

Unless we misjudge the reading of the signs of the times, the Ku Klux Klan will never ride quite so high down in Georgia as it has here-to-fore. The people down there are acclaiming Rickey and Robinson while the stock in Klanland still falls.

RALPH McGILL

Atlanta Constitution

The Pattern Of Our Violence

Tues 4-19-49

Atlanta Ga.

Judge J. M. C. Townsend, of the Georgia Court of Appeals, reportedly has charged a Georgia sheriff and three deputies with aiding hooded mobsters of the Ku Klux Klan klavern in beating seven Negroes, four being veterans of the recent war, near Hooker, Ga.

The Klan, with gall that would sicken a buzzard, piously and fraudulently tries to claim a kinship with the Klan of the Reconstruction days.

That Klan was disbanded by Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest When asked why he disbanded it, he said:

"I was trying to suppress the outrages."

Robes The robe of Forrest's Klan fits the present one about like a mother hubbard would fit a sideshow midget. Forrest had no slick-tongued, cynical "organizers" going around scaring poor persons into paying fees to join. The way it is now a lot of persons, many of them with criminal records, never do an honest day's work but live like the parasites they are off the cut they get from persuading suckers to join.

The whole modern setup was conceived by the late Doc Simmons as an insurance-selling scheme. He never had any ideas of what it would be until the smart boys saw the money possibilities. They pretty soon had taken advantage of Doc Simmons' weaknesses of the flesh to the point where he didn't dare oppose them. From that time on the Klan existed in its official offices as a cynical outfit where they laughed at the boobs who joined, but went on scaring them about white supremacy, and so on, keeping the $10 bills rolling in. The boys today don't have it half so good but some tough boys who used to be holdup boys found they could get the money a lot easier by getting members and taking a good thick cut of what the members paid in. It is easier and also less dangerous. It is not without reason that the Klan membership is referred to as "suckers" by the organizers when they get together to eat steaks and entertain their girl friends on the money they get from membership "fees."

For this present cheap, evil little outfit, which blasphemes the Cross and Christianity, to speak of itself as having kinship with Forrest's old Klan, is like a tumblebug claiming to be related to an eagle.

Evil I have said here before that the Klan is a cancer which will bring, eventually if not soon, sorrow and disgrace to any community which harbors it.

In 1948 more than half the nation's crimes of intimidation were in Georgia. The news agencies have sent out the story. Russia will print it. And will use it against us. Do we deserve it? I think we do deserve it for tolerating the evil of the KKK.

Items What are some of them? Let's take a look at a few. In some the Klan is directly responsible. In others its influence is suspected:

Valdosta, Ga., Sept. 8. Negro reports that hooded men placed a small casket on the front porch of his home. Two crosses burned in surrounding area, evidently to intimidate Negro voters.

Mount Vernon, Ga., Sept. 9. Isaiah Nixon, Negro, visited by two white men and shot to death on the night of the primary election.

Milledgeville, Ga., Sept. 19. Three Negro educators, attending a University System meeting at Georgia State College for Women, left the city because of threats and intimidating demonstrations. KKK stickers were plastered on campus buildings.

Wrightsville, Ga., Oct. 29. Six robed men visit a Negro woman and warn her not to return to her job in a school lunchroom.

Lyons, Ga., Nov. 20. Robert Mallard, Negro, shot to death by a hooded mob. Tuskegee Institute classifies the murder as a lynching.

Tues 4-19-49

Fulton County, Ga., Dec. 4. Police escort leads Klan motorcade through a Negro community on the outskirts of Atlanta. A white man who protested the Klan demonstration was followed by policemen and arrested on charges of "drunken driving." He was later found not guilty by a jury.

Jeffersonville, Ga., March 20. Eight-foot cross burned in the courthouse square. On the following weekend several additional crosses were burned in the Negro section.

Columbus, Ga., March 27. Two white men arrested for beating a Negro boy.

Atlanta, Ga., March 31. White veteran severely beaten by the "Black Raiders," because, he was told, he "mistreated his wife." Several of the floggers were identified as members of the Klan.

LaGrange, Ga., April 1. Negro woman brutally beaten by "Black Raiders." They accused her of cursing a white woman.

Columbus, Ga., April 3. Crosses burned in front of two Negro homes.

The others all follow the same pattern.

Better? Can any one of the dupes who took part in those episodes say that he, his family or his community is better for them? Can it be said anything was "protected"? Do they not all reveal something violent and dangerous to the peace and safety of all our cities, towns and persons?

Can any civic club dodge the fact that it is, by its nature, in integrity bound to take a stand against this sort of thing? Is there a minister, a public-spirited leader, who feels he is not honestly duty bound to stand up publicly and be counted?

The sheriffs who are violating their oaths, who are revealing their own personal inability to handle their offices by depending on the KKK, may next turn on not merely the weak and defenseless. Let every community take stock of itself and determine if it wishes to welcome or retain the evil of the Klan. In the spirit of Nathan Bedford Forrest, let us suppress the outrages.

Unhooding the Ku Klux Klan

The Constitution — *Atlanta, Ga.*

We trust the State Legislature will go ahead with the bill which would ban the wearing of masks by any organization. But we doubt it. The unhooding first must come from within. And it will come in time.

The Klan no longer enjoys the position it occupied in the '20s. Today few men are willing to speak for it publicly. Few ministers are willing to entertain its unchristian ideals today. In the '20s many did. Today many uninformed persons, fearful and unable to see beyond the narrow limits of their own communities, are attracted to the Klan because to them it represents protection from the vaguely defined fears that beset them. Smart exploiters and collectors of initiation fees feed on, and increase, these fears. Nevertheless, the unhooding of the Klan-type organization proceeds.

The legislation is desirable as a symbol. But the real unhooding must come from within as a decision by a Christian people not to tolerate unchristian ideals and methods.

Wed. 1-19-49

An Appropriate Text

The Constitution — *Atlanta, Ga. Tues. 1-18-49*

We note with considerable interest and approval that 125 members of the Ku Klux Klan—75 men and 50 women—attended church services Sunday night.

We do not know what text the minister used for his sermon but we suggest the following as appropriate:

Judge not, that ye be not judged.

For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again.

And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye?

Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me pull out the mote out of thine eye; and, behold, a beam is in thine own eye?

Thou hypocrite first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye.—Matthew 7:1-5.

A Bold Indictment Of Ku Kluxery

(From The Atlanta Journal) — *Birmingham, Ala. Thurs. 3-3-49*

The charge of Superior Court Judge J. Roy Rowland to the Johnson County Grand Jury on Monday was a reassuring incident. It proved that the Ku Klux Klan cannot get away with overt illegality in the community without being denounced by a high officer of the court for its lawlessness.

What had happened was this. The city of Wrightsville passed an ordinance prohibiting the appearance on the streets of persons in masks unless they had obtained permission of the mayor and council. On the night of Feb. 7, some 50 to 75 persons, robed and masked like Ku Kluxers, defied this ordinance by holding a public demonstration.

To quote Judge Rowland, "they also violated the speed laws, and several traffic signs. They covered their automobile license tags. The blockaded the state highway and refused to let traffic proceed. They appeared on the courthouse square grounds of the county."

The judge continued: "It does not matter what noble principles the Ku Klux Klan claims to espouse, or what professions it may make with regard to upholding the law, these acts show the intentions to be just the opposite. A man is not what he says he is, but what his acts show him to be, and what they did that night was indicative of a spirit not only to violate the law but actually to defy it."

The Journal congratulates Johnson County on having a judge who does not seek craven silence lest he lose the votes of hooded hoodlums at the next election and who speaks boldly and with dignity in behalf of law and order.

Georgia needs more judges and legislative officials like him.

'Kommunist Klannies'

Atlanta Constitution — *Atlanta, Georgia Mon. 2-7-49*

Klan Dragon Sam Green explains the hooded hoodlum demonstration down in Tallahassee as engineered by "Bolshevist" Klansmen who broke off in a huff from a South Georgia Klavern.

Sam has no business getting folks all mixed up that way by admitting that there are or ever have been sects within his organization.

Perhaps in the confusion he should design costumes of varying hues, the better to identify the cross-burners.

And he could start out by prescribing pink sheets for Kommunist Klannies.

War on Klan Will Continue, Says Greer

Atlanta Constitution — *Atlanta, Georgia Fri. 3-4-49*

Rep. John Greer, of Lanier County, leader of an unsuccessful fight in the last session of the Georgia General Assembly to unmask the Klan, said the measure banning the hoods would be reintroduced in the next session and that he or other legislators would continue introducing it until it is passed.

The Legislator, addressing the Junior Chamber of Commerce here, indirectly accused Klansmen of being cowards. "Take away their hoods," he said, "and you remove their false courage."

Greer praised Rep. Muggsy Smith, of Fulton, and other legislators who joined in the fight to unmask the Klan and such organizations as the Columbians and Black Raiders. He said the 65 legislators who voted for the bill deserved commendation. On the other hand, he accused the 52 failing to vote of having "taken a walk."

If the Klan is stripped of its masks, Greer said, it would die within six months. "The parades would stop, the burning of crosses would cease and the drive for new members wouldn't bring in any more suckers," he declared.

He charged that the two chief purposes of the Klan were making money and securing political power. He accused its leaders of sponsoring programs deliberately aimed at persecuting members of the Negro race. He said the Klan program, in addition to holding that Negroes are attempting to control elections with their votes, charges that the Jewish people are getting control of all money and members of the Catholic Church are trying to control the Government.

Greer asked the Chamber to join in the effort to outlaw the wearing of masks in public. He said that Atlanta City Council should be urged to follow the example in Columbus, where only last week municipal employees were barred by councilmanic decree from membership in such organizations as the Klan and the Columbians.

"These organizations," he said, "are the greatest allies of Communism."

Here's How They Voted

The Constitution

On Klan Bill

Atlanta, Ga. Fri. 1-21-49

Here's how the Georgia House of Representatives voted on killing a measure to unmask the Ku Klux Klan:

FOR KILLING BILL

Abney, Adams of Brantley County, Aycock, Bergeron, Barrett, Barton, Battles, Baughman, Bell of Elbert, Bennett, Best, Boone, Brazeal, Briscoe, Britton, Buie, Cagle of Cherokee, Cagle of Pickens, Campbell of Walker, Cates, Chalker, Chastain, Cohen, Coleman, Collier, Cook, Cowart, Cox, Davis of Bartow, Deason, Denton, Duncan, Dunn, Edwards, Ellis, Etheridge, Gallaway.

Greene of Crisp, Green of Rabun, Griswell, Hall, Hartley, Hedden, Hill, Hilton, Hood, Huddleston, Hudson, Jenkins, Jennings, Jessup, Jones, Kellam, Kemp, Kennedy, Kidd, Kitchens, Leach, Lewis of Hancock, Lockett, McMillan, Miller of Bibb, Miller of Miller.

Moore of Dodge, Risner, Robertson, Rowland, Sills, Simmons, Sivell, Smith of Bryan, Stevens of Webster, Stocks, Summerour, Tamplin, Tarbutton, Terrell, Tillman, Trapnall, Turk, Tuten, Twitty, Vickers of Coffee, Walker, Wetherington, White, Whitworth, Willis, Witherington.

AGAINST KILLING BILL

Adams of Polk, Alexander, Alverson, Aultman, Barber, Beddingfield, Bell of Richmond, Bolton, Butler, Campbell of Oconee, Covington, Cranford, Davis of Dougherty, Dodd, Durden, Evitt, Freeman.

Greer, Griffith, Groover, Gross, Hagan, Hale, Harden of Ben Hill, Harden of Turner, Harper, Hinson, Hollis, Hubert, Hurst, Hurt, Johnson of Hall, Johnston of Worth, Jolly, Key, King, Langdale, Lewis of Greene, McGee, McWhorter, Malone, Matthews of Peach, Mathews of Lowndes, Matthews of Clarke.

Moulton, Mull, Myers, Nightingale, Page, Pearlman, Pickard, Pittman, Reed, Rogers, Sheffield, Smith of Fulton, Smith of Haralson, Sumner, Swindle, Tribble, Trice, Vandiver, Vickers, of Colquitt, Wilkes and Williams.

NOT VOTING

Adams of Evans, Adams of Wheeler, Baggett, Baker, Barnett, Bledsoe, Blitch, Byrd, Caldwell, Callier, Carmichael, Coogle, Dorsey, Drinkard, Edenfield of Emanuel, Edenfield of McIntosh, Garrard, Gillis, Gowen, Griggs, Henderson, Hodges, Holloway, Hopkins, Howard, Hunter, Lokey, McCracken, McGarity, McLaughlin, Mangum, Mashburn, Meeks.

Moore of Taliaferro, Pannell, Raulerson, Ray, Ryle, Salter, Shields, Smiley, Smith of Emanuel, Stanton, Stevens of Marion, Todd, Waldrop, Walton, Watford, Willingham and Wooten.

1-21-49

To Ban the Wearing of Hoods

Atlanta Constitution — *Atlanta, Georgia Thurs. 1-19-49*

Those who have been apprehensive about the new Legislature found cause for reassurance in the action of the House Committee on Public Welfare, which has unanimously voted out a bill banning the wearing of masks.

Unfortunately, the State has received considerable notoriety from some of the anti-Negro measures proposed by a few irresponsibles.

But the fact that the anti-mask measure has not only been introduced but also—without a single dissenting vote—recommended for passage by committee gives the lie to those who seek to brand the General Assembly as bigoted and benighted.

Of course, the action comes as no surprise to those familiar with the caliber of the average Legislator or with the wishes of the people he represents. The Klan has not wielded any considerable political influence in years. The late Eugene Talmadge often bragged that he had never joined. And numerous municipalities have recently enacted ordinances banning the wearing of masks or hoods in public.

In view of this, the wonder is not that the Legislature gives every indication of passing such a measure, but that anyone thought for a moment it wouldn't.

The wearing of masks in public for purposes of intimidation is vicious and un-American as well as childish and uncivilized.

Mon. 1-17-49

It should be outlawed if only to protect those thus disposed from their own asininity.

House Defeats Klan Bill, Boosts Budget $8,000,000

The Constitution

Atlanta, Ga. Fri. 1-21-49

By M. L. ST. JOHN

After a bitter fight late yesterday, the House killed a bill to unmask the Ku Klux Klan and increased the proposed State spending program to an all-time high of $159,252,959.

The House stuck to Gov. Talmadge's request in the "regular" budget of $108,299,026 for operations from present revenues.

But instead of shaving the "contingent" budget—based entirely upon whether new tax measures are passed—the House increased spending by approximately $8,000,000 instead of shaving it by $7,000,000 as Talmadge asked. The "contingent" budget grew from the original $42,500,000 to $50,953,733.

Georgia's total budget was approved by a vote of 163 to 2.

"Political preachers, Communism, and Southern traditions" were phrases that echoed through the House chambers as foes battled over a move to prohibit mask-wearing.

The House killed the bill by a vote of 89 to 65. Rep. John Greer, of Lanier County, an author of the bill, served notice he would ask the House to reconsider its action.

Rep. E. F. Griffith, of Putnam, asked the House if Georgia's law has "become so weakened that we must depend upon anonymous judges and juries." He warned that while masked men may be intimidating only "ignorant law violators today, tomorrow night they may be visiting you."

When some enemies of the bill declared it could not be enforced, Rep. Raymond Reed, of Cobb County, suggested that the Governor could call out the National Guard if necessary to enforce the law.

"If any organization has become so powerful that we cannot enforce our laws, it is high time we did something about it," Reed declared. "The Governor could call out the National Guard, if necessary. I don't think it would be necessary, however. If the Legislature acts courageously, I believe public opinion will force compliance with the law. If the Legislators are afraid, themselves, then they are not true representatives of the people."

Fri.

Asked if he feared the Klan, Reed replied he would not be speaking before the House if he did.

1-21-49

Rep. Julian Bennett, of Barrow County, paid high tribute to the Ku Klux Klan. He called it "a bulwark against Communism and a protector of Southern traditions." He lashed at "political preachers" who fight the Klan.

Rep. F. H. Sills, of Candler County, a Primitive Baptist preacher, speaking in favor of killing the Klan-unmasking bill, declared: "If Atlanta preachers would preach the hell out of the children and not ask us to Legislate hell out of the Klan" there would be less juvenile delinquency."

Rep. Vaughn Terrell, of Floyd County, feared that the anti-mask bill would interfere with the religious freedom of Moslem women. Rep. Griffith explained the Georgia law wouldn't apply to the Far East.

Fri. 1-21-49

When Bennett said he wasn't a Klansman, Rep. Howell Hollis asked why Bennett didn't "join an organization which he considers so noteworthy."

Rep. S. N. Cox, of Decatur County, came to the defense of the Klan several times. *Atlanta, Ga.*

Rep. Greer branded "any masked organization" as the greatest ally Communism has in America. He pointed out that masked groups were used by Hitler, Mussolini, and the Black Dragon Society of Japan for the purpose of force and fear, and he likened the Klan to them. *The Constitution*

On the vote for the all-time high Appropriations Bill, Reps. Lawton Miller, of Bibb County, and Adie Durden, of Dougherty, were the only opponents.

Miller said the proposal was "fantastic." He and Durden both declared it would destroy "what we all promised to do up here—raise new money for the schools." Miller said the people couldn't and wouldn't attempt to raise this impossible sum of money.

Most of the additional money will go to Counties as grants for road building. It will also include $175,000 for equipping the South Georgia Trade School at Americus and $160,000 for the State School for the Deaf at Cave Spring.

An amendment to the bill would prohibit the Governor from spending any surplus State funds. The surplus—if any—would have to await the assembling of the Legislature.

House Defeats Move To Kill Anti-Klan Bill

The Constitution

Atlanta, Ga.

Wed. 1-19-49

By M. L. ST. JOHN

The House narrowly defeated a move to kill an anti-Klan bill yesterday and prepared the way for debate tomorrow on the voters' qualification bill.

Following fiery debate, the House voted, 78 to 72, against "postponing indefinitely" Rep. John Greer's bill to ban the wearing of masks. It adopted Greer's request to delay the bill until Thursday when a substitute will be presented to the House.

The House State of Republic Committee approved amendments to the voters-qualification bill, and House Speaker Fred Hand said the bill would be ready for action tomorrow. The major change would create a state commission to prepare uniform questions for voter applicants to answer in event they can't read and write.

Where the original anti-Klan measure prohibited any mask-wearing whatsoever in public or private, the substitute measure would exempt Christmas costumes and the wearing of disguises by children under 16 years of age. Embodying some suggestions from Rep. Muggsy Smith, of Fulton, who was drafting similar bills, the substitute measure would prohibit masked organizations or persons from holding demonstrations on public property, or on private property without consent of the owner.

Speaker Hand said some House members had told him the previous night Klan Grand Dragon Green wanted the bill delayed. Hand said he rejected a request that the bill not take its regular turn on the calendar. When Hand called the bill up for debate, Greer asked it be delayed until Thursday. Greer told newsmen he had been informed the Klan was asking House members to kill the bill. *The Constitution*

Reps. Bobbie Lee Cook, of Chattooga County, and Julian Bennett, of Barrow County, led the fight against the anti-Klan measure.

They charged that anti-Talmadge members of the House were "bringing up petty bills to cause dissension." *Atlanta, Ga.*

Rep. Bernard Nightingale, of Glynn County, countered with the question as to whether they meant to imply that Gov. Talmadge was against the anti-Klan bill. Bennett said he did not. *Wed.*

Rep. Raymond Reid, of Cobb County, asked if administration leaders were seeking to kill the anti-Klan bill because they were afraid to "stand up and be counted on the measure." Bennett declared he was against the bill. Smith, of Fulton, observed that Bennett and Cook were opposing the bill before they even knew what it contained.

1-19-49

Rep. S. N. Cox, of Decatur County, joined in fighting the measure.

After the battle over the Klan measure, the House reunited and speedily adopted five bills.

Bills passed would permit the State of Georgia to contract with other Southern States in operating Regional Schools; reduce the sentence for sodomy: increase the sentence for bribery; permit a newspaper to become the official organ of a county after only four months publication, instead of two years publication; and abolish an act requiring advertisement of intention to secure a delayed birth certificate.

Georgia KKKs March In S. C.: No Incidents

Atlanta Constitution

Atlanta Georgia

A Ku Klux Klan demonstration last night in Denmark, S. C., went off without incident on the heels of one Monday night in which the hooded order was accused of breaking the law in Wrightsville.

Mayor John E. Vanlandingham, of Wrightsville, said he ordered the town's one night policeman not to interfere with the Monday night demonstration because "there was no use to get him murdered." *Thur. 2-10-49*

A motorcade of some 75 Klansmen rolled through the Georgia town and burned a cross on the courthouse lawn. A Wrightsville city ordinance forbids hooded parades without permits from the Mayor and Council.

A South Carolina Moral Welfare Group, representing 16 white church denominations, asked Gov. Thurmond prior to last night's parade to prevent citizens being molested or intimidated by the Klan.

In Atlanta circulars advertising the Klan's opposition to Communism were distributed yesterday on the streets.

Dragon Predicts Next Race Riot in North

By BERNARD KAPLAN
International News Service Staff Correspondent

The Grand Dragon of the Ku Klux Klan predicted yesterday that the nation's next race riot will occur in one of three Northern cities—Detroit, Chicago or East St. Louis, Ill.

Dr. Samuel Green, of Atlanta, told Negro newsman Roi Ottley in a private interview that:

"I'd be willing to bet you right now that the next racial disturbance, if it comes, will take place in one of those three cities."

Green, however, refused to give Ottley specific reasons for his choice.

Ottley, widely known writer, who is mentioned as a candidate for the post of Race Relations Secretary to President Truman, is gathering material for a book. He spoke with the Klan chieftain for nearly two hours in Dr. Green's office.

Ottley said their discussion ranged over both the race question and its effect on international affairs. According to the writer, Green said:

"It's all right to give money to those flea-bitten countries abroad, but you will never get me to recognize a Chinaman, a Jap or a Negro as an equal."

Ottley asked:

"Why do members of the Klan wear a disguise?"

The Grand Dragon's reply was:

"So many people are prejudiced against the Klan that members are afraid they will lose their jobs, their influence in public affairs or otherwise be penalized if they are recognized."

Ottley said Green told him the Klan was not "concerned" with the question of intermarriage in the North. He said it was the job of the KKK to guard against such things happening in the South.

Green added that he believed in equal education, equal housing and recreational facilities for the Negro, but couldn't advocate these things openly because of the "prejudice against the Klan."

Green told the Negro newsman that he had been "hurt" because a ten-dollar contribution to Morehouse College, Atlanta Negro school, had been returned as "unacceptable."

The Klan leader offered a solution to the mounting problem of Negroes moving into previously white neighborhoods. He said white families should be systematically moved from such areas

turning them over to Negroes.

Ottley quoted Green as saying: "Liberal thought in Georgia comes from Northern Carpetbaggers and Southern Scalawags."

Green added that, next to the Catholic Church, "the Klan is the greatest existing mouthpiece of propaganda."

'NEGRO KLAN' BEATS COUPLE FOR GOSSIPPING

CONYERS, Ga. — (ANP) — Toke and Ida Lee Kelly, tenant farmers and parents of five children, reported to Sheriff W. L. McCart here last week that four persons who called themselves members of the "colored Ku Kluz Klan" attacked and beat them with pistol and rifle butts on a deserted county road recently.

In assault warrants sworn out against the Negro Kluxers, the Kellys named Carl Brown, his sister-in-law, Dolly Mae Brown; and two others.

According to the story the victims told, the Browns lured them to a deserted county road where several robed but unhooded Negroes "pretended to hold us up." The robes resembled those worn by the KKK, and one of the party said they belonged to the "colored Ku Kluz."

The Kellys charged they were forced from the automobile and beaten by the "colored Kluxers." The attack accurred one night after a flare was burning in the yard of the Kellys' home.

Bill Farmer, on whose land the Kellys live, said he understood the couple had been blamed for gossip about the Browns.

GEORGIA BARS PLAN

TO KILL KLAN BILL

House Defeats Move to Table Indefinitely Measure Aimed at Unmasking Order

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

ATLANTA, Jan. 18—The Georgia House of Representatives today defeated a motion to postpone indefinitely consideration of a bill to unmask the Ku Klux Klan. The vote, which followed vigorous debate, was 78—72.

At the time, the State of Republic Committee of the House reported favorably on voters' qualification, a measure which would wipe out Georgia's present record registration of 1,25,000 voters.

The bill provides for creation of a central registration authority which would draft a set of uniform questions to be used throughout the state by registrars in testing applicants who do not qualify under the literacy provisions of the state constitution.

The proposal is the Talmadge administration's answer to a recent Federal Court decision outlawing Alabama's Boswell amendment. It differs from the Alabama law in that registrars in various localities are not given powers to employ their own methods in determining a registrant's qualifications. They would be compelled to use a uniform procedure laid down by the central registration authority. The authority would consist of ten members appointed by the governor, one from each Congressional district.

The measure states: "The questions to be prepared shall be framed in such a manner that a person with fair average intellect and attainments can understand them."

Another provision declares that registrars "shal: not count against the applicant such things as mistakes in grammar and other lack of attainments which an illiterate person does not normally possess."

New registrants would be required every two years and a $1 registration fee would be levied biennially. Former Gov. Ellis Arnall got the Saate Legislature to repeal Georgia's old poll tax law in 1945.

The measure still permits qualification literacy. A person may qualify by reading part of the United States Constitution "intelligently" and writing it "legibly."

The first legislative move to rip the mask from the klan in Georgia threw the House into an uproar.

The House, by a margin of only six votes, refused to postpone indefinitely consideration of the bill that would apply to other hooded orders as well as the Klan. Members agreed to take up the bill Thursday morning. There appears to be small doubt, however, that the proposal to prohibit "the wearing of masks, hoods or other face coverings" will be killed when the final vote is taken.

Governor Herman Talmadge's legislative leaders emphasized they are not committed to any stand on the issue.

Sharp debate flared when Representative John Greer of Lanier asked for postponement of the bill's consideration. He said that a number of House members have informed him of calls from Ku Klux Klan members demanding that the bill be killed.

Klan Whips 7 in Georgia

Negroes Taken Away From Sheriff

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn., April 3.—(AP)—Sheriff John Lynch of Dade County, Georgia, said seven Chattanooga Negroes were taken from him by a group of hooded Ku Klux Klansmen last night near Hooker, Ga.

One of the Negroes reported tonight all seven were flogged by the Klansmen.

The Negroes were taken, Lynch said, from the home of Mrs. Minnie Clay, a Negro woman.

PLACE RAIDED—

The sheriff explained he had received complaints about "wild parties" at the woman's house and took three deputies "up to raid the place."

"As we started to raid it," he said, "the Klansmen took the men away from us and ordered you to leave?"

"There wasn't anything else left for us to do but leave. What would you do if there were 50 or 100 men around and ordered you to leave."

He said he did not witness the flogging.

PORTER'S STORY—

One of the Negroes, William West, porter at a hotel, said they were put into a station wagon by the masked men, driven a short distance, taken out and flogged.

The Negro said he and his companions had gone to the Clay house Saturday night to bring Mrs. Clay's son back to Chattanooga.

Negro Reports Robed Georgia Band Flogged 6

Says They Were Seized at Party; White Man Tells of Getting 25 Lashes

TRENTON, Ga., April 4 (UP).—A Negro and a white man reported today they had been flogged Saturday night by organized bands, one of them consisting of more than fifty men in masks and hoods.

William West, a hotel porter, said he and five other Negroes were flogged in a woods near here by masked men who kidnaped them at a party.

Theron V. Byrd, twenty-five, said four unmasked white men lured him from his home in Chattanooga, Tenn., drove him across the border into Georgia, and gave him twenty-five lashes. He said the men warned him not to divorce his wife.

In connection with the West case, Dade County Sheriff John Lynch said he had received reports of a loud and disorderly party in the Negro section and had gone to the house to investigate. He was preparing to arrest everybody there, he said, when fifty masked and hooded men drove up and their leader said, "we'll take over now, sheriff."

Klan Chief to Investigate

ATLANTA, April 4 (AP).—Dr. Samuel Green, grand dragon of the Ku-Klux Klan, said here today that he knew nothing about the Dade County incident except what he read in the morning papers.

"I don't have a Klan in Dade County," he said. "Besides, Klansmen always uphold the law; we won't tolerate lawlessness. I will investigate this incident. If we find any Klansmen were involved they will be banished from the Klan and I will help prosecute them."

The Klan Backs Down in Baldwin

Atlanta Constitution
Atlanta Georgia
Tue 4-5-49

When members of the Baldwin County Citizens Committee for Law, Order and Decency held a special meeting on a recent April night the specially invited "joint" guests failed to show.

The special invitation went out as a registered letter to the Baldwin County Klan No. 291 and someone signed the receipt. But not a Klansman responded.

For one fully to understand this rude breach of etiquette one must do a little reviewing.

About the first of the year some person or persons burned crosses at the homes of the President of GSCW and the editor of the Milledgeville Union-Recorder.

Law-abiding citizens soon offered a $1,000 reward for a conviction in the case. Rumors followed that because prominent persons were involved, the investigation had been called off.

The leaders of the law-abiders called on the sheriff to make arrests if such persons were known. The sheriff said the rumors were false.

In March an anonymous circular letter purporting to come from Baldwin County Klan No. 291 stated that the Klan knew who burned the crosses and that more than that some of the members of the Committee for Law and Order were lawbreakers themselves.

So the law-abiders challenged the Klan to come forth at this recent night meeting and present their evidence. A justice of peace was present to issue the warrant, a sheriff was there to make the arrest, solicitors were there to hear the evidence.

The invitation read:

"If your organization is worthy of respect and is in truth and fact one for the betterment rather than the overthrow of our government, you will be present and present your facts and evidence which you say you have. Otherwise you will be announcing to the public that you condone lawlessness in your community and that your organization is not one for decency and good government. Take your stand one way or the other."

In other words, the Klansmen were invited to put up or shut up.

Instead, they didn't even show up, thus indicating that their costume includes not only the white sheet, but also the white feather. The Klan promotes un-Americanism and opposes all the tenets of Christianity despite its publicly proclaimed virtues. Tue 4-5-49

The People Win a Victory

Atlanta Constitution
Atlanta Georgia

A few weeks ago, in discussing the case of Frank Bettis, Atlanta salesman, arrested on charges of driving while drunk within a short time after he had protested a Klan parade near his home, we said it was our opinion he had been shoved around by police who seemed more interested in Klan "rights" than in the ordinary citizen's.

We said that we did not believe Mr. Bettis was drunk. He had lost his only son on the last day of war and since that time has been in a highly nervous condition. He is a church worker who does not now drink, whatever he might have done in past years. We felt he was being persecuted. Sat 1-28-49

The trial has now been held. The jury took only long enough to get into the room and ballot to declare Bettis not guilty.

Frank Bettis testified the police and Klan had attempted to intimidate him. The county police, he said, had persecuted him. He testified the police had lied about where they had arrested him. He testified he was not drunk and had not had anything to drink.

The jury believed he told the truth.

The truth is the police appeared at no time to have a case. Their witnesses seemed, for the most part, to be belligerently pro-Klan. The attempt of officers to bring in names of others—including the Editor of The Atlanta Constitution—was branded a. an infamous lie by Bettis, who said it was done because the newspapers had helped him to get justice. The jury believed him.

As it stands the police involved are discredited by a jury decision. We believe Chief Ellis to be a man of good intentions, but, he, too, must suffer some of the discredit in that the story told by his officers was from the beginning as transparent to the non-Klan citizens as the jury found the story to be. A chief, when his men are at fault, can take the side of an injured citizen.

This is a healthy thing. A jury has, in effect, told the few Fulton County police who like to do such things, and there are but a few, to quit shoving innocent people around. It has said their charges, made against a man who protested openly to the Klan, were false.

It took a lot of courage for Frank Bettis to face this thing out and go to trial. Tremendous pressure was put on him to "settle it" and to "drop it."

We congratulate him, the witnesses and jury. All acted with forthrightness and courage. It seems a non-Klansman does have rights after all and can protest about the Klan without being abused and unjustly arrested. Sat 1-28-49

Questions For A Sheriff

Birmingham News
Birmingham Alabama

The Klan was at it again in a community of Northwest Georgia. Seven Negroes were taken from the custody of the sheriff and flogged by a band of hooded Klansmen, some 50 to 100 of them.

The sheriff had raided a house occupied by Negroes after complaints of "wild parties" there. He was accompanied by three deputies. "As we started to raid it," said the sheriff, "the Klansmen took the men away from us and told us to leave. There wasn't anything else left for us to do but leave." Tue 4-5-49

* * *

So they left. The Negroes were placed in a station wagon, driven a short distance, taken out and whipped.

"What would you do if there were 50 or 100 men around and ordered you to leave?" the sheriff is reported to have asked.

* * *

In return, the sheriff might be asked a question or two.

Did he not swear to uphold the law?

Did he have the right to surrender his prerogative of enforcing the law to any band of men, no matter how large it was?

And a lot of people would like to know the answer to this question, too. Did the sheriff not know the hoodlums were arriving soon after he did?

Did he make no effort to keep the arrested men in his custody?

Did he surrender them meekly to the crowd and go off somewhere else?

The whole miserable episode reflects again a state of mind which brings shame upon the South. Tue 4-5-49

Does FBI Actually Ask Dixie KKK Aid?

Author Quotes Aides; Cites Story That Drug Vender Caused Lynching

By STETSON KENNEDY

ATLANTA—Last week I turned inside out the fact that the new Grand Dragon of the Association of Georgia Klans, former Atlanta police officer Sam Roper, likes to boast inside his klaverns that the FBI sometimes calls on the KKK for assistance.

In fact, to hear Roper tell it, you'd think that back in the days when, under Ole Gene Talmadge, he headed the Georgia Bureau of Investigation, the FBI, GBI, and KKK all worked hand in glove to enforce the laws.

Tall, Tall Claims

Of course, many of the claims voiced in Roper's Klavern 297 are palpably untrue.

One of them was the assertion that the KKK had reported to the FBI that "social equality" was being preached to "mixed" audiences in a certain colored church in Atlanta, and that the G-Men promptly raided the place.

But another case of which I have detailed knowledge must be put in a different category. Here it is, as told by Roper's chief of the Klavalier Klub flog squad, Cliff Vittur, in a super-secret session.

Smuggler Caught

According to Vittur, the FBI had asked the KKK to help it get the goods on a narcotics smuggler who operated through the Atlanta bus station.

The Klavaliers went to work, and soon discovered that the man brought the dope in the cuff of his trousers, from which it was lifted by a colored shoe shine boy, Vittur said.

A Sexy Side-line

Besides this, the Klavalier chieftain went on, the smuggler had a side-line. Picking up a likely-looking feminine prospect in the bus station, the smuggler would coax her to go with him in a cab, driven by a certain colored man.

A block from the station, the smuggler would pretend to have forgotten a bag, and would go back for it on foot, promising to return momentarily. Whereupon the colored driver would make "improper advances" on the white woman.

Trapped by Klanswoman

A picked squad of Klavaliers was assigned to take "appropriate action."

First, the aid of a Klanswoman was procured. Decked-out in a canary yellow blouse and wearing a silver (plated) spider breastpin, she was ordered to loiter about the bus station, as bait for the smuggler.

The smuggler bit, and went through his usual routine. But the moment he left the cab, the Klanswoman flashed a .45 revolver on the colored driver, and ordered him to turn the corner, where a carload of Klavaliers were waiting.

Unrecorded Lynching

Meanwhile, a policeman-Klansman named Kirkpatrick, or Kilpatrick, kept watch to see that there was no interference. The Klavaliers drove their victim out Pryor Road, Vittur said.

The next day I read in the Atlanta Journal a brief notice that the body of a colored man, with head and chest crushed, had been found on Pryor Road, "apparently the victim of an auto accident."

Officer Saved Lynchers

Vittur went on to give his Klavaliers particular hell for not wiping their fingerprints from the colored driver's cab.

"If I hadn't called a Brother on the police force to clean up that cab before the fingerprint man got to it, a lot of you would be in hot water." Vittur said.

Claims that the Klan sometimes serve as a Gestapo-like secret police are not confined to the Georgia Realm of the Invisible Empire.

Rather recently I was told by the long-time Grand Klaliff of the New Jersey Klan, the Rev. Alton M. Young, that the G-Men "frequently" called on his K-Men for help, "particularly in smuggling cases along the Jersey coast."

The Ku Klux Klan always gets its man, the Grand Klaliff boasted.

ROY N. EMMET

There's No Place for the Klan

From Cedartown Standard

The Ku Klux Klan, 1949 version, is attempting to organize in Polk County. It may be that an organization has been completed. If so, an organization which has brought national disrepute to itself and to the good citizens of Georgia and Alabama is threatening to disrupt this community.

We do not believe that there is a need for or a place in any part of America for an organization that feeds on prejudices, that flaunts law and order by resorting to force and intimidation. More emphatically, we do not believe that there is a place in any community in America for an organization whose members appear in public wearing masks.

WE BELIEVE that the Klan of today, revitalized since the end of World War II, is nothing more than a money-making scheme for a few men in high Klan positions. They are capitalizing on the sectional sentiment which has come down to the Southerners since the days of the reconstruction when the real Klan had its birth. Then it served a good, a noble purpose at a time when law and personal protection were at a low ebb in the South. The real Klan passed out of existence many years ago when the need for it no longer existed. We feel positive that were there no initiation fees to be assessed, no dues to be collected, there would be no 1949 Klan.

The Cedartown City Commission, in special session, Thursday morning, took a very positive stand against the organization of a Klan in this area. Today's issue of the Daily Standard carries a very courageous statement by the Cedartown Junior Chamber of Commerce. The Daily Standard strongly commends these acts by Cedartown citizens interested in the continued development of this area, and urges every other citizen to be equally courageous and outspoken in opposing Klan organization.

There are no racial problems in Polk County. There are no religious controversies in Polk County. There are no violations of social customs or criminal laws that require correction by a band of hooded men who would take the law into their own hands. The establishment of a Klan might well tend to create those problems which do not now exist.

THE THREAT of a Klan, 1949, is a problem that demands action from every man, and woman in Polk County. It demands action from ministers of the Gospel, from school teachers, from workers and leaders, action from town dweller and those who live on farms.

What can be done?

Oppose by word the organization of the Klan. Pass local legislation making it unlawful for men to appear on the streets and highways wearing any type of a hood. If the Klan is brought out into the open, it will not last.

The City Commission has, by its action, indicated that such legislation would be passed in Cedartown if citizens wanted it. County authorities could take similar action as could the Rockmart Council. There is no State law in Georgia which prohibits masks. Alabama passed such legislation a few months ago after acts of violence by hooded men had terrorized several communities, but the Georgia legislature lacked the courage to do so.

It now remains for local governing bodies to protect its citizens and its community's good name. They will do so if good citizens support such a move.

The Cedartown Chamber of Commerce bulletin this month closed with a quotation by the late Rev. Peter Marshall which might have been directed to Polk Countians today. It is—

"Give us the courage to be hot or cold, to stand for something lest we fall for anything."

2d Klan Tax Lien Filed By U. S.; Total $17,716

The Federal Government income tax lien against the here—this time for $8,383.72.

This brought to a total of $17,716.21 of past-due income taxes which the Government claimed the Klan has dodged. The investigation is not yet complete. The first assessment of $9,332.49, filed Aug. 23, 1949, already has been paid, however, Marion Allen, U. S. Collector of Internal Revenue, said.

Yesterday's tax lien against the Klan was filed in the Federal Court for the Northern District of Georgia. Allen listed the Klan's address as 209 Peters Bldg., Atlanta.

Allen said the new assessment results from investigations made following the first assessment.

"Our first jeopardy assessment amounted to $8,332.49 and was predicated upon figures and data previously obtained," Allen said. "Our second assessment amounts to $8,383.72 and results from investigations made subsequently to the first assessment. The total amount of both assessments is $17,716.21."

Allen said both cases are on record in the Clerk's office of the Federal Court for the Northern

late yesterday filed a second Association of Georgia Klans District of Georgia. These figures, therefore, are public record, he pointed out.

"I am not at liberty to make any other comment," Allen asserted, "and, even if I were, I would not do so, since our investigation has not been completed and that investigation has disclosed a multiplicity of leads pointing in every direction. Therefore, to give out any other information might do someone an injustice. It has been the policy of this office, strictly adhered to, not to unjustifiably disparage or injure anyone. On the contrary, we will continue our investigation and make every effort to collect just and unpaid taxes without fear or favor, regardless of race, creed or color."

Cedartown Rebuffs the Klan

For several weeks the bloodsucking leeches who serve as organizers for the Ku Klux Klan have been at work in Cedartown and Polk County.

Finally, having found a few knuckleheads willing to part with ten dollars for

a card testifying that they are organized haters, the Klan scheduled a demonstration for the purpose of attracting other recruits. The show was slated for tonight at a place called Peek's Park.

But the Klan apparently reckoned without realization of the fact that the vast majority of the residents of Cedartown are enlightened, Christian people and that they have elected a City Commission which faithfully reflects their views.

This City Commission unanimously refused to allow the bed-sheeted bigots to use the park. It was a commendable, though hardly unexpected decision, very much in keeping with recent developments throughout the State.

If the Klan insists on putting on its ridiculous exhibitions, then let it hire a private hall, just as must any other promoter.

Atlantan Asks Protection Against 'Scum Of Ku Klux'

The Advertiser, Montgomery Ala.

Fri. 7-15-49

ATLANTA, July 14.—(AP)—An Atlanta man today asked court protection against "a threat of torture and beating at the hands of the . . . scum of the Ku Klux Klan."

Two young lawyers filed a suit in behalf of Hugh Gilliland, 29. They asked an injunction against Dr. Samuel Green, grand dragon of the Klan.

The suit declared Dr. Green is "the acknowledged and nominal head of a hate organization known as the Ku Klux Klan which engages in the persecution of innocent people who are unable to protect themselves."

The suit declared Green "issued every imperial directive for action by the said scum in the past and that if petitioner is attacked . . . it will be at the instance and direction from a directive issued by the said Samuel Green."

Hearing Is Scheduled

Judge Edgar Pomeroy declined to issue a temporary injunction, and set a hearing for Aug. 26. He said he was reluctant to grant a temporary injunction without a full hearing "in such a case."

When informed of the suit, Dr. Green said he had never heard of Gilliland.

As for the threats Gilliland said he had received, Dr. Green declared, "I do know that I have never threatened anybody, nor has the Klan."

Gilliland claimed he was arrested June 28 on a lunacy warrant issued by Judge Eugene Gunby, Fulton County ordinary. He said he was held in jail two days, and then transferred to a veterans hospital here where doctors "found nothing wrong and released him."

Fri. 7-15-49

Lunacy Papers Refused

His lawyers said that when they went to the ordinary's office to see the lunacy papers, they were refused. They then filed a mandamus action against the ordinary to force him to produce the papers, Gilliland then received a threat inspired by the Klan, they related.

Judge Gunby said the lunacy warrant was sworn out by Gilliland's wife, Helen, claiming him violently insane. The judge said Gilliland walked out of the hospital before a lunacy commission could consider his case, and the warrant is still pending against him and he could be arrested.

Gilliland told a reporter he believed his wife swore out the lunacy warrant on the advice of a "klansman."

Gilliland said he has been married three years, and has a 20-month-old daughter. He said that after his release from the hospital, he returned to his home and has been there since.

Klan Not 'Significant,' Talmadge Tells Editors

Constitution Fri. 7-22-49

Gov. Talmadge told two visiting German editors yesterday he didn't believe the Ku Klux Klan's membership is large enough to be significant.

"There was a time back in the '20s when a public official couldn't be elected without belonging to the Klan," Talmadge said. "That is not true today. However, so far as I know, my father and I are the only Governors in recent times not to be members of the Klan."

Former Acting Governor M. E. Thompson, of Valdosta, said, "I don't belong to the Klan, I never have, and I never will join," when informed of the Governor's statement. "He might be referring to me as an acting governor. Maybe he doesn't recognize me as having ever been Governor," Thompson added.

Former Gov. Ellis Arnall is in Washington, D. C., this week, but his secretary said, "I'm positive he is not and never has been a member of the Klan. I've heard him deny it quite emphatically several times when others asked him."

Talmadge further told the visiting editors he knew of no acts of violence being committed in Georgia by the present-day Klan. He said that he will enforce the State laws in event anyone or any organization violates them.

The Munich editors, Walter Tschoppik and Justus Hi Stackelberg, were told by the Governor in an interview that the South is against Communism and is friendly towards the rehabilitation of the German people. He told the anti-Nazi German editors that Georgians do not hold the German people responsible for the acts of Hitler and the German leaders.

Flogged Hooker Negro Says Sheriff Turned Back on Threatened Hanging

Atlanta, Ga. Constitution

By BEM PRICE

ROME—(AP)—One of seven flogged Negroes said yesterday he asked Sheriff John W. Lynch vainly for protection against a threatened hanging.

The testimony came from Charles Roberts, of Hooker, as the Government began parading the allegedly beaten Negroes across the witness stand in the mass civil rights trial of 12 men.

On trial before Federal District Judge Frank A. Hooper are Dade County Sheriff Lynch, three of his deputies and eight private citizens.

Roberts said he was seized at the home of Mamie Clay at Hooker the night of April 2 and that while he was surrounded by Ku Klux Klansmen, "they tole us they was gonna hang us."

The witness continued: "I asked the sheriff, 'You are the sheriff, can't you help us?' But he just turned his back and walked away."

Wed. 11-30-49

During the day, Roberts, A. C. Hale, James Edward Hale, and Leroy Woods, all plaintiffs, told the court they had been seized by "gentlemans in robes" and beaten with "sticks, ropes and leather straps."

The Government charges the seven Negroes were arrested falsely and then turned over to mob of 50 to 75 for beating.

For the third straight day, Defense Attorney Frank Gleason sought to impeach witnesses by claiming statements they gave Agent James B. Hillin, of the Georgia Bureau of Investigation, and those made on the witness stand were contradictory

Each of the witnesses said they were afraid to tell Hillin the truth because he failed to show identification, but did tell the truth to Federal Bureau of Investigation agents.

All of the witnesses told stories nearly identical with that related by A. C. Hale.

Hale said he went to the home of Mamie Clay with other youths the night of April 2 to pick up Mamie's son, William.

About 15 minutes after his arrival, he went on, he heard "some men's praying and I went to the window to watch a cross burn."

The 22-year-old Chattanooga Negro said he and his companions were ordered out of the Clay home by "robed gentlemans."

These masked men, he said, told them they had been hearing complaints of wild parties, but didn't want to harm the Negroes because "we hear you are pretty good folks."

After being ordered to leave, Hale told the court, he and his companions got in a car to drive a[illegible] the roadway was b[illegible] one of the Klansm[illegible]ng, "Sheriff, come he[illegible] if these Negroes are drunk." They young Negro said a man in a blue uniform approached, looked at them, and declared they had been drinking. Hale said he had not.

Shortly thereafter, Hale continued, he and six companions were placed in a station wagon and driven down into a hollow where "the gentlemans in robes led us up a hill and whipped us."

Rights Trial At Rome Scans Klan

By BEM PRICE

ROME—(AP)—The Government is painting, almost incidentally, a picture of the Ku Klux Klan at work.

Insofar as the Government is concerned, however, the Klan is just background for a broader canvas: the mass Civil Rights trial of 12 men.

As trials go, this one probably would be classed as dull, but it already has produced one precedent.

Constitution

Each of the defendants—Dade County Sheriff John W. Lynch, three of his Deputies and eight private citizens—is accused of conspiring to arrest seven Negroes without cause and turn them over to a band for beating.

For U. S. District Attorney J. Ellis Mundy, the fact that the band of 50 to 75 men wore Klan robes is a detail.

Mundy's chief concern is with the charge that four representatives of the State conspired with citizens to deprive seven people of their Constitutional right to equal protection and immunity from illegal punishment.

So far, each of the witnesses in the Federal District Court trial has told of an exciting day in little Trenton, Ga., and Dade County last April 2.

There was a big Klan parade and speech-making in the square before the hooded men roared out of town in automobiles and sped down a side road to the home of Mamie Clay.

Here, one witness said, the Klan burned a cross, strutted up and down a bit and then entered the Clay home.

He said the men who went in came out with others who wore no robes, but he was unable to say whether the unrobed ones were the plaintiffs.

The witness, Nelson Davis, told of encountering the Klan caravan on the road to his home and of seeing a Negro running, one leg in his trousers, one leg out.

The Government put up William Arp, self-identified Klan Cyclops of the Seventh Klan Province, to testify that two of the defendants, Truman Purcell and Terrell T. Wheeler, are members of the "provisional" Klavern at Trenton.

Arp declared that he had reinstated Trenton City Recorder John Wilkins, a defendant, as a Klansman and that he saw Deputy William Hartline at a Klan meeting. Hartline is a defendant also.

After Arp appeared, Imperial Wizard Samuel Roper, of the Association of Georgia Klans, testified there was no Klavern of his at Trenton.

Arp had defined a "provisional" Klavern as one that had made application for a charter.

In any case, the Government is seeking to prove that the whole incident was cooked up at a Klavern meeting.

Defense Attorney Frank M. Gleason, of Rossville, contended that the Government has the wrong men on trial and, besides, the matter is one for the State courts.

Gleason also argued that it is impossible for private citizens to act under "color of law" as the Government charges and that brought up the precedent making.

Federal Judge Frank A. Hooper, agreed that private citizens ordinarily couldn't deprive anyone of Constitutional rights.

Anything that happened, if, say you and a buddy went out and arrested somebody and beat him up would be a matter of assault and battery. But . . .

If you and a policeman went out and the policeman made the false arrest, and if the circumstances were such that you appeared as a policeman or representative of the State, too, you then possibly coud deprive someone of his Constitutional rights.

The trial resumes tomorrow.

Deacon 'Loved Not' Dade Sheriff, Mass Civil Rights Trial Is Told

Constitution 11-29-49

By BEM PRICE

ROME—(AP)—A Negro church deacon said yesterday he had no love for the Dade County Sheriff or his deputies.

The witness, Clarence Roberts, 34-year-old laborer and church worker, appeared in the mass civil rights trial of 12 men in Federal District Court.

On trial are Sheriff John W. Lynch, three of his deputies and eight private citizens.

Each is accused by the Government of conspiring to arrest seven Negroes falsely and surrender them to a mob of 50 to 75 men in Ku Klux Klan robes for flogging last April 2.

Reports earlier had named one deputy and two other defendants as being present at a cross burning which the Government says preceded flogging of the Negroes.

For more than an hour, Defense Attorney Frank Gleason, of Rossville, tried to shake Roberts' testimony.

Under cross-examination Roberts admitted he was related to two of the plaintiffs.

"What," asked Gleason, "is your feeling toward the Sheriff and his three deputies?"

"I don't know. I just tell what I know."

"That's not answering the question."

"Well, I guess if I was in them other boys' shoes, I'd feel bad."

"That's still not answering the question.

Federal Judge Frank A. Hooper intervened and explained quietly what Gleason wanted to know.

Without hesitation Roberts looked directly at Gleason, then at the defendants and replied, "It's bad."

Previously Roberts told the court he had seen Deputy William Hartline at the cross site before the home of Mamie Clay.

The Government charges the seven Negroes were placed under arrest "without cause" at the Clay home by the Dade County officers and then turned over to the mob.

The witness said he saw a "big fat man" pouring something on the cross out of a can. He pointed out the "fat man" as Terrell T. Wheeler, Trenton cafe owner.

Wheeler was identified by a witness last week as secretary of the provisional klavern in Dade County.

Non-Official Might Act 'Under Color Of Law'

Rights Trial In Georgia Yields Legal Precedent

Birmingham News Mon. 11-28-49

BY BEM PRICE

ROME, Ga., Nov. 28—(AP)—The government is painting, almost incidentally, a picture of the Ku Klux Klan at work.

But insofar as the government is concerned, the Klan is just background for a broader canvas: The mass civil rights trial of 12 men.

As trials go, this one probably would be classed as dull, but it already has produced one precedent.

Each of the defendants—Dade County Sheriff John W. Lynch, three of his deputies and eight private citizens—is accused of conspiring to arrest seven Negroes without cause and turn them over to a band for beating.

For U. S. Dist. Atty. J. Ellis Mundy, the fact that the band of 50 to 75 men wore Klan robes is a detail.

MUNDY'S CHIEF CONCERN is with the charge that four representatives of the state conspired with citizens to deprive seven people of their constitutional right to equal protection and immunity from illegal punishment.

So far each witness in the Federal District Court trial has told of an exciting day in Trenton, Ga., and Dade County last April 2.

There was a big Klan parade and speech-making in the square before the hooded men roared out of town in automobiles and down a side road to the home of Mamie Clay.

Here, one witness said, the Klan burned a cross, strutted a bit and then entered the Clay home.

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* * *

THE WITNESS, Nelson Davis, told of encountering the Klan caravan on the road to his home and of seeing a Negro running, one leg in his trousers, one leg out.

The government put William Arp, self-identified Klan cyclops of the Seventh Klan Province, to testify that two of the defendants, Truman Purcell and Terrell T. Wheeler, are members of the "provisional" Klavern at Trenton.

Arp declared he had reinstated Trenton City Recorder John Wilkins as a Klansman and that he saw Deputy William Hartline at a Klan meeting. Hartline and Wilkins are defendants.

Other witnesses related Hartline watched two crosses being built on his property near Trenton.

* * *

IMPERIAL WIZARD Samuel Roper, of the Association of Georgia Klans, testified there was no Klavern of his at Trenton.

Arp had defined a "provisional" Klavern as one that has applied for a charter and is building up sufficient numbers to get one.

* * *

THE GOVERNMENT is seeking to prove that the whole incident was cooked up at a Klavern meeting.

Defense Atty. Frank M. Gleason of Rossville, Ga., contended the government has the wrong men on trial and, besides, the matter is one for the state courts.

Gleason also argued it is impossible for private citizens to act under "color of law," as the government charges. That brought up the precedent-making.

Federal Judge Frank A. Hooper agreed that private citizens ordinarily couldn't deprive anyone of constitutional rights.

If, say you and a buddy, went out and arrested somebody and beat him up, that would be a matter of assault and battery but . . .

If you and a policeman made the false arrest, and if the circumstances were such that you appeared as a policeman or representative of the state, too, then you possibly could deprive someone of his constitutional rights.

The trial, recessed for the Thanksgiving holidays, resumes Monday.

Hiding the Klan's Face

THE Ku Klux Klan in Georgia was enabled to breathe more easily last week when the State's House of Representatives defeated by a vote of 89 to 65 (with fifty-one members abstaining), a bill to prohibit members of secret organizations or other citizens from wearing masks in public or at public demonstrations for the purpose of hiding their identity.

The alarmed leaders of the hooded order used all of their political pressure to kill the feared legislation because its enactment would have killed their racket.

The result of the balloting was never in doubt, considering the composition of the Georgia Legislature; but what we regard as extremely significant is the fact that the measure was killed by a **minority** of the Representatives.

Obviously the fifty-one members who abstained from voting were in favor of the unmasking measure but did not consider it politically expedient to register their sentiment, perhaps for fear of reprisal.

Add their votes to the sixty-five who had the courage to favor unmasking of the K.K.K. publicly and we have a majority of 116 against eighty-nine.

Had half of those who abstained from voting cast their ballots with the sixty-five who did favor the unmasking measure, there would have been a resounding defeat for an organization which for too long has been credited with speaking for all the white people of Georgia.

Obviously the Klan by this showing does NOT represent the true sentiments of a majority of the white people of the Empire State of the South and a full third of its elected representatives are on record as opposed to continued coddling of this nefarious organization.

Klan Bill To Unmask Loses By 89-65 Vote

Reactionaries Shout Down All Appeals To Sanity

BY CHAS. W. GREENLEA

Echoes of the Mallard and Walton County lynchings, reverberated through the Georgia House of Representatives Thursday as Ku Klux Klan proponents, refighting the issues of the Civil War, filibustered to death a bill to unmask the Ku Klux Klan.

Unable to bring the measure to a declaratory vote, progressive thinking legislators finally yielded to a motion to "indefinitely postpone" further discussion on the bill. The vote, 89 to 65, had the effect of killing the measure.

Pro-Klan speakers, each in his turn professing to be a non-member of the infamous organization, invoked the Bible, extolled ancestry worship, and "refought" the Civil War, in an effort to prove that the bed-sheeted storm troopers comprise a "noble" organization.

Interrupting one speaker who had been extolling the dubious virtues of the Klan for the better part of an hour, comparing Klan members to Jesus Christ and proponents of the bill to Pharisees, a young veteran posed the question:

"Will the erudite gentleman from Candler yield to a question?"

Pro-Klan speaker: "What did you call me?"

The questioner defined the word "erudite" for him and asked: "Is it not true that our Lord Jesus Christ said these words, 'Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works?'"

Some Klan sympathizers declared that the dragon's followers are the "last bulwark of democracy." They compared the Federal Government to Hitler's Germany, and alluded that communists have taken control. One particularly bitter speaker castigated Ellis Arnold, Dred Pearson, and Walter Winchell, and urged his colleagues to "stand by that noble, up-lifting, organization that is fighting to maintain our way of life".

He declared that the "only ones who are for this bill (to make it unlawful to wear masks in Georgia) are those from Atlanta who have to ride into office on the backs of Negroes."

One heckler of the bill arose to interrupt an anti-Klan spokesman: "Will the bill", he mocked, "unmask Santa Claus also?"

The only encouraging aspect of the debate was the persistency of those who were pushing for passage. One speaker eloquently and in apparent sincerity, said he was "ashamed of Walton County and of Toombs County — and I have pity for that poor woman, (Presumably Mrs. Mallard). He laid these crimes to the Klan.

250 Women Hit Tabling Of Mask Ban

Two hundred and fifty Methodist churchwomen yesterday strongly denounced the Georgia Legislature's recent action tabling a bill to unmask the Ku Klux Klan.

The pronouncement was made at a workshop on "The Bible and Human Rights" by the Woman's Society of Christian Service of the Atlanta East and Atlanta West Districts of the Methodist Church, representing Fulton, DeKalb, Cobb, Cherokee, Pickens, and Gwinnett Counties. The meeting was held at the Wesley Memorial Church.

A resolution, passed unanimously, declared the body "repudiates the action of the Legislature which said to the world that 'the Klan is the way of life in the South.' We would commend Representatives Luther Alverson and Muggsy Smith of Fulton County; H. O. Hubert, Jr., and Hugh McWhorter of DeKalb; and Raymond M. Reed of Cobb, as well as others, for their courageous stand in supporting the bill for de-hooding the Klan."

The churchwomen further called upon city an county governments to take action that would prohibit parades or assemblies of masked groups on highways or in public buildings. They urged ministers "to preach sermons on the true meaning of the cross."

The resolution continued:

"We express our disapproval in its entirety of House Bill Number 1, known as the Voters Bill, especially the re-registration provision, because (1) it perpetuates a political machine which endangers democracy and results in wholesale disfranchisement of people; (2) it puts power in the hands of a few people; (3) the present law, if enforced, will be adequate to keep the voters' list up to date."

The Atlanta meeting was the third in a series of six workshops on human rights being held by the WSCS of the North Georgia Conference of the Methodist Church. Others have taken place in Newnan and in Gainesville.

Anti-Rights List Includes Georgia Klan

Atty. Gen. Tom Clark yesterday added the Association of Georgia Klans, the Knights of the White Camellia and the Original Southern Klans, Inc., to the Government's list of organizations "advocating force and violence to deny others their constitutional rights," according to Associated Press dispatches from Washington.

The list was turned over to the Loyalty Review Board which heads the program of checking on the loyalty of Government employees. Active membership in this and other group previously listed is grounds for dismissal of a Government employee, officials said.

Dr. Samuel Green, Grand Dragon of the Association of Georgia Klans, yesterday declared Clark's charge against his organization "is an unmitigated lie. . . and if the order is allowed to stand, would affect the jobs, of Senators, U. S. Supreme Court Judges and Clark's own Dallas law partner, Maury Hughes."

Dr. Green further stated the Klan "has never been on trial and has never had anything proved against it, but Mr. Clark, as a bureaucratic head, has set up this list just exactly the same way Russia sets her policy."

Chattahoochee Circuit Judge T. Hicks Fort, who granted a charter to the Original Southern Klans, Inc., in June, 1948, declined comment. Fred W. New, Columbus and Hamilton attorney who has represented the Klan in legal matters, said he did not see how Clark's action could affect the organization's charter.

The Southern Klans, Inc., has headquarters in Columbus.

Meanwhile, Associated Press dispatches stated a cross was burned Tuesday night on the lawn of J. W. Atkins, Editor of the Gastonia, N. C. Gazette, whose newspaper had been waging a vigirous campaign against the Klan. Atkins recently saluted Klansmen editorially as "ten-dollar suckers." An unidentified band fled after igniting the cross before his residence.

KKK No Longer Wields Black Magic of Fear

ATLANTA—(ANP)—The Ku Klux Klan is losing its potency as a "fear-inspiring" sign of "white supremacy" in the South.

Where once the mere mention of the Klan caused the average citizen to quake with fear, there is now an increasing trend to look upon the hooded order as a "curiosity."

Where once there was a terrified silence at the sight of Klansmen on parade, there is now heckling, threats of reprisals, and in some cases, open defiance.

At Gainesville, Ga., a Negro woman watching a KKK parade last week, brought grins from the faces of other Negroes when she shouted out "Send us your sheets, white folks, we'll wash them."

Children, who once scurried out of sight when the Kluxers hovered into view, fell in line behind the parade, giggling and drumming loudly on tin pans.

Even politicians and city, county and State officials are now outspoken against Klan activities.

Several cities have banned the use of masks in parades—Wrightsville, Columbus and Macon, Ga.; Chattanooga, Tenn., Tallahassee and Miami, Fla. Others, as well as States are pushing for laws against "intimidation" by masked men, and banishing Klan activity in general.

SCORNS RACE EQUALITY FACTS:

Grand Dragon's Ideas Relicts of Dark Ages

ATLANTA (ANP)—"You'll never get me to recognize a Chinaman, a Jap or a colored person as equal," declared Samuel Green, grand dragon of the Ku Klux Klan, in a private interview with Rio Ottley, a representative of the Overseas News Service.

The Ku Kluxer made it quite clear that he would never accept a minority group or a foreign born person as his equal. However, he stated, "It's all right to give money to those flea-bitten countries abroad."

Would Crash Liberal Thought

"Why do members of the Klan wear a disguise?" Ottley asked.

Because "co many are prejudiced against the Klan that members are afraid they will lose their jobs, their influence in public affairs or otherwise be penalized if they are recognized," Green replied.

He told the newspaper reporter, that he was not concerned with the question of intermarriage in the North, but it was the duty of the KKK to prevent such things from happening in the South.

"Liberal thought in Georgia comes from Northern carpetbaggers and Southern scalawags," said Green.

Talmadge Fears Votes

Ottley explained his reason for interviewing the highly publicized hate baiter as, "I just wanted to face the outstanding Fascist in the country and evaluate him from first-hand information."

The day previous to his interview with the grand dragon, Ottley had had an hour-and-a-half interview with Georgia's Gov. Herman Talmadge, and reported that the Governor was very disturbed about the power of the colored citizens in the North and about the power of his vote in the South.

He is alleged to have agreed that the minority group must have certain gains: however, he was trying to figure just how small he can keep them.

Headline of the Week

From *Variety*, which keeps doggedly trying to top its famed head (1935), STIX NIX HIX PIX:

HOOP'S SCOOP LOOPS NIELSEN*

Playing with Fire

One night in September a fiery cross was burned on the lawn of the old governor's mansion of Milledgeville, Ga. (pop. 6,800), once the capital of the state. In the mansion lives President Guy Wells of the Georgia State College for Women, where a group of Negro college educators was meeting. They were frightened out of town. Fortnight ago three men were arrested after a Negro's house was shot up, and there was talk around town that night riders had been driving Negro families out of the county. Such terrorism caused Georgia's oldest weekly, the Milledgeville *Union Recorder* (est. 1819) to raise its voice against the Ku Klux Klan. "It is time people quit winking at law violations," it declared. "This is not Germany or Russia . . ." The paper demanded a grand jury investigation.

Last week the editorial brought some action. While Editor Jere Moore, 46, and his wife were out to dinner, a fiery cross was burned on their front lawn. But Editor Moore, an antiaircraft colonel in the Pacific in World War II, was not to be intimidated. He came right back with a defiant editorial accusing the Ku Klux Klan of threatening freedom of the press. Said he: ". . . We shall fight to the death to keep the press free." At week's end, ten leading Milledgevillagers put up a $1,000 reward to help catch cross-burners. Said Editor Moore: "I think we're going to get somewhere this time."

KLAN ASSERTS FATHER ASKED IN-LAW BEATING

Macon--(AP)--A Macon father has asked the Ku Klux Klan to beat the estranged husband of his daughter, it was reported here yesterday.

Bibb County Juvenile Court records show that Herman Lavender, Exalted Cyclops of Macon Klan No. 314, testified that Emmett J. Davidson asked renewal of his KKK membership and urged the hooded organization to administer a beating to W. Wilson Grant, also of Macon.

Lavender told Davidson, according to his testimony, that the Klan did not indulge in such activities.

Davidson took the stand later and denied he had talked to Lavender.

The case landed in Juvenile Court when Davidson sought custody of the four-year-old son of his daughter and Grant. The custody case was dismissed, but Grant has filed suit for divorce, naming J.L. Meeks, of Macon, as correspondent.

Grant also has filed a petition of writ of habeas corpus in Bibb Superior Court demanding the child, now in custody of Mrs. Grant, be produced. A hearing on the petition has been set for Thursday by Judge Mallory C. Atkinson.

The legal skirmishes were highlighted by the move of Mrs. Grant's counsel, Thomas W. Johnson, who filed a subpoena demanding that Lavender produce a list of local Klan members in order to establish proof that Grant is a Klansman.

Lavender declared the BibbCounty roster is in the possession of Dr. Samuel Green, of Atlanta, Grand Dragon of the Georgia Ku Klux Klan, but most local attorneys hold that the court could force the Klan roster to be produced if it is shown to be relevant in the Grant case.

Council's Forthright Action

Members of Atlanta City Council are to be congratulated upon the prompt and forthright action they took here Monday night in voting unanimously to put an end to masked groups parading through Atlanta's city-streets.

For their interest and efforts in working for the passage of such an ordinance by Council, the Atlanta Junior Chamber of Commerce is also to be congratulated.

The Ku Klux Klan is a menace to the best interests and welfare of Atlanta. It is a dividing and destructive force among the races and groups of the State. And it is a shame to America before the Nations of the world, most of whom have been critical of us, even in the Councils of The United Nations. In simple truth, there is no place in America for the Ku Klux Klan nor any other organization entertaining and practicising such alien views as the Klan.

Thus, Atlanta has made an auspicious beginning. The action to prove what can and will be done when an aroused citizenry stands behind its representatives of government. It does even more-it proves too, that what was done in Atlanta can, and we hope, will be done in other Georgia cities. The recent Legislature refused to take similar action against the Klan. There were a number of reasons underlying their failure to take positive and vigorous action. We shall not bother to deal with them here. But suffice it to say that if the cities and municipalities of Georgia become sufficiently aroused and lead out against the Klan as Atlanta, Macon and Gainesville have done, then there can be no reason to doubt that the Legislators will support this action when the issue comes before the next Legislature. For then they will know that the constituents in their local communities are in favor of such action and will therefore reflect in their votes.

The Klan can be and will be uprooted in Georgia and the South. There is a swelling tide of resentment against its high-handed and irresponsible methods. The South simply cannot continue to afford the luxury of the Ku Klux Klan. It is a cancer on the body politic.

Open Boasting of Floggings Is Claimed at 'Rights' Trial

By BEM PRICE

ROME—(AP)—A witness said yesterday one of the defendants in the mass civil rights trial here boasted openly of seeing seven Negroes flogged.

Floyd Brandon, Trenton, Ga., cafe operator, told the Federal District Court that the boasting was done by Robert Keener.

Keener is one of the Dade County men accused by the Government of conspiring to have the Negroes arrested falsely and then flogged by a mob of 50 to 75 men in Ku Klux Klan robes.

Others on trial are Sheriff John W. Lynch, three of his deputies and seven private citizens.

The day's testimony also saw the name of Georgia Court of Appeals Judge H. M. C. Townsend brought into the case.

Brandon declared that on the night of April 2—the night the Government says the flogging took place—Keener entered his cafe. The witness quoted Keener as saying he "had been over to Hooker and saw some Negroes get their rears whipped and had some fun."

Special District Attorney Raymond Martin asked, "Was he (Keener) proud of it?"

Said Brandon, "Seems like he was."

On cross examination Defense Attorney Frank Gleason asked: "Don't you know that on the night Keener made these statements he was just as drunk as he could be?"

The witness replied, "Naw sir."

"Don't you know," Gleason asked further, "that he is an habitual drunkard?"

"I wouldn't say so," Brandon answered, "I have see him drunk though." Brandon denied that Keener was drunk that night.

It was at Hooker, Ga., that the Government charges the Negroes were seized and beaten. Hooker is 12 miles southeast of Chattanooga, Tenn.

Early Retrial In Flog Case

Retrial of Dade County Sheriff John W. Lynch and nine others charged with violations of Federal civil rights laws in the Dade County flogging of seven Negroes will be scheduled "early in 1950," U. S. Atty. J. Ellis Mundy announced yesterday.

Trial of the 10 defendants ended in a mistrial at Rome Saturday, when a jury reported it was unable to reach a verdict after 48 hours of deliberation.

Stanley White, alleged secretary of a Ku Klux Klan Klavern, is scheduled to face contempt of court charges before U. S. District Judge Frank Hooper here Thursday morning.

White was cited for contempt of court when he refused to testify, after being summoned before the Federal Grand Jury that indicted Sheriff Lynch and other defendants.

Mayor Who KKK Tried To Oust Loses Race

IRON CITY—(AP)—Mayor C. L. Drake, who charged that the Ku Klux Klan was seeking to oust him, lost a fight for re-election yesterday.

Voters in this Southwestern Georgia city elected Wilson Roberts, an automobile dealer, to succeed Drake who has been in office nine years.

Roberts received 96 votes and Drake 54. The town has a population of about 500. There were 151 registered voters.

Drake charged that night riding Klansmen tried to kidnap him last July 17. He said he used an automatic shotgun to drive off seven or eight cars loaded with robed Klansmen.

The Mayor said at that time that Klansmen wanted to defeat him for office because he was opposed to Gov. Talmadge. He added that persistent efforts had been made to intimidate him through phone calls and letters, advising him to leave the county.

The voters also elected four Councilmen who had the backing of Roberts.

Defense Blames Flogging On Government Witness Arp

By BEM PRICE

ROME—The defense yesterday blamed the flogging of seven Negroes on Ku Klux Klansmen under Kleagle Walter Arp, a Government witness.

Meanwhile, two of the 10 Dade County defendants in the mass civil rights trial, repudiated in oral testimony statements which the Government said were obtained by FBI agents.

A third defendant, Trenton Cafe Operator Terrell T. Wheeler, also took the stand and admitted he was a Klansman but denied he connived to have the Negroes beaten.

The disclosure of the defense position came when Government attorney objected to Wheeler's testimony that Arp once imported Klansmen from Rossville to Trenton to demonstrate Klan procedure.

Defense Attorney Frank M. Gleason countered with the assertion that the testimony was offered to show the events leading up to the beating and that it was performed by foreign Klansmen under Arp.

In previous testimony, Defendant Truman Purcell, former Cyclops of the Provisional Klavern in Dade, named Arp as the man who led Klansmen into the Clay yard and seized the Negroes.

Robert Keener, 28-year-old boilermaker, was the second of the defendants during the day to deny statements attributed to him by the FBI. The first was Sam H Peters, 63-year-old revival singer and sheetmetal worker.

Keener admitted he was the unrobed man in the station wagon who drove the Negroes from the Clay home to the scene of the flogging.

But, he contended, he was at the Clay home only as a spectator and consented to drive the Negroes only because he was afraid of the Klansmen.

When confronted with a statement reported to be one he obtained by the FBI, Keener declared, he didn't even think the signature was his and couldn't remember signing a statement on that kind of paper.

In his oral testimony Peters freely admitted a cross building early April 2 and admitted participating in delivery of the cross to a spot on Hooker Hill, opposite the Clay home.

The self-described evangelistic helper denied belonging to the Ku Klux Klan but said he attended "four or five meetings" of the Provisional Klavern "to see if I wanted to join."

Peters told the court he saw the cross burning on his way back from Chattanooga the night of April 2 but stayed only a few minutes and was unable to identify positively anyone present.

Then U. S. District Attorney J. Ellis Mundy produced the FBI statement dated April 29.

They went over it point-by-point with Peters denying he had ever told the FBI he knew nothing about the cross building.

Likewise, he denied telling FBI agents Bill Sheets and T. B. Peacock, "I saw Sheriff Lynch and saw Deputy William Hartline in the yard before a Negro home I later learned belonged to Mamie Clay."

In addition Peters denied that portion of the statement which said, "I especially noticed Sheriff Lynch and two or three others in plain clothes putting some Negroes in the Sheriff's car."

Further, Peters repudiated that portion of the statement which read, "The Klansmen took the Negroes out of the Sheriff's car and loaded them in a vehicle down in front of my car. There was so many Klansmen around I couldn't see what kind of vehicle it was."

With a poker face, Peters denied that he had seen some 25 or more Klansmen push the Sheriff back from his car and take the Negroes after telling Lynch, "We'll take care of this situation."

On redirect examination by Defense Attorney Frank Gleason, Peters declared that while the FBI agents read the statement to him it didn't sound like the one produced by the prosecution.

Gleason pointed out there had been some words scratched out and insertions made in the document.

End Seen Today In Civil Rights Trial at Rome

By BEM PRICE

ROME — (AP) — The mass civil rights trial of 10 men with its tales of terror and masked nightriders neared the jury stage late yesterday.

Shortly before 3 p. m. (EST) U. S. District Attorney J. Ellis Mundy announced that the last of the witnesses had been heard.

Defense Attorney Frank M. Gleason, of Rossville, promptly made—and Federal District Judge Frank A. Hooper promptly denied—a motion for a directed acquittal.

Thus, all that remains before the fate of the 10 Dade County defendants is placed in the jury's hands is the final argument by the attorneys for both sides and the judge's charge to the jurors.

Both the arguments and Judge Hooper's charge are expected to be completed by late afternoon today. The trial opened Nov. 21.

On trial are Dade County Sheriff John W. Lynch, three of his deputies and six private citizens.

Each is accused of conspiring to have seven Negroes seized by a Ku Klux Klan mob the night of April 2 after the Negroes had been arrested "without cause" and whipped.

In the closing moments of the testimony, the Government called FBI Agent George Dillard, of Decatur, to the stand. Dillard has acted throughout as chief adviser to the prosecution.

The quiet, self-assured Dillard told a story of frustration in his efforts to obtain the co-operation of Sheriff Lynch and Deputy Stokes McCauley in his investigation of the flogging.

Dillard said when he went to Trenton, County seat of Dade, not long after the flogging to find McCauley, he rain into efforts to conceal the Deputy's whereabouts.

Klan Chiefs Face Contempt Count

Ku Klux Klan Imperial Wizard Samuel W. Roper and another Klan official, J. B. Lambert, must appear in Federal Court here Thursday to answer contempt proceedings brought against them yesterday by U. S. Internal Revenue Collector Marion Allen.

U. S. District Judge M. Neil Andrews ordered the "show cause" hearing, set for 10 a. m. Thursday in his courtroom, after Allen and Asst. U. S. Atty. Harvey H. Tisinger filed charges against the pair.

Allen asked that both Klan leaders be cited for contempt on charges they failed to appear and to produce Klan records after being subpoenaed by him Nov. 22.

Lambert was identified by the Collector as "Kleigraph or Secretary" of Oakland City Klavern No. 297. Allen testified Roper was Exalted Cyclops of the same Atlanta Klavern, in addition to serving as Imperial Wizard of the Association of Georgia Klans.

Allen told Judge Andrews both men were served with subpoenas ordering them to appear before him Nov. 25 with Oakland City Klavern records, in connection with "an investigation arising under the Internal Revenue Laws of the Federal tax liability of the Klan."

He said Roper's subpoena was left "with an adult female" at his residence, 2251 [illegible] Ave., N. E., and Lambert was served personally at his residence, 965 Oak St.

Allen testified both men failed to appear and "continued thereafter to disregard their summonses."

Imperial Wizard Roper said yesterday he "didn't know what this was all about." He added the Klan "had tried to comply with all Federal requirements and had given Federal investigators the papers they had requested."

The Klan leader said he "was not aware that he himself had been asked to appear before Allen" and said his attorney had appeared "in my behalf" in answer to the summons.

Since the death of the late Imperial Wizard Samuel Green, Allen testified, the Internal Revenue Department had collected approximately $17,000 in taxes from the Association of Georgia Klans.

Kleagle at Flog Scene Klansman Tells Court

By BEM PRICE

ROME—(AP)—Exalted Cyclops Truman Purcell yesterday tabbed Kleagle Walter Arp as the red-robed leader of Ku Klux Klansmen in the flogging of seven Negroes.

Purcell, one of 10 defendants in the mass civil rights trial before Federal District Judge Frank A. Hooper, said he asked Arp to prevent the floggings.

But, he continued, "Arp said it wouldn't hurt anything."

Earlier in the trial Arp appeared as a government witness and identified himself as a Kleagle and former Grand Cyclops of the seventh Klan province.

Arp swore then that he did not leave Trenton the night of April 2—the night the Negroes were seized and flogged.

The 10 are under indictment on charges of conspiring to have the Negroes arrested falsely at the home of Mamie Clay, a Negro, and then surrendered to the mob of Klansmen.

On trial besides Purcell are Sheriff John W. Lynch, three of his deputies and five others.

Purcell, a [illegible]-year-old carpenter and father of nine children, from Sand Mountain just over the Georgia line in Alabama, said he joined the Klan last Summer.

He said Arp organized and ran the provisional Klavern at Trenton and appointed him Exalted Cyclops.

In Klan parlance an Exalted Cyclops is a local Klan chieftain, while a Kleagle is an organizer.

The night of the flogging, Purcell related, he saw Arp in Trenton and later at Hooker Hill opposite the Clay home.

He was able to identify Arp, said Purcell, by his robe since a Kleagle wore a white regalia with a red cape.

During a cross burning, the defendant said, he saw Arp lead 12 to 25 Klansmen into the yard before the Clay home.

He told the court he saw the Klansmen leave "with some people" but because he was still on the hillside at the cross, he was unable to tell whether the people were white or Negro.

He moved out with the Klan caravan, Purcell went on, and drove to a hollow where he learned for the first time that "it appeared like they were going to have a whipping."

When Arp rejected his plea Purcell said, "I went back to my truck and stood there."

He denied seeing or participating in the flogging or even hearing any screams.

Shortly after the whippings became public, Purcell asserted, the late Imperial Wizard of the Association of Georgia Klans, Dr. Samuel Green, ordered him to stop further organization in Dade County.

As a result of that order, Purcell declared, there is no longer a provisional Klavern in the county.

Purcell said he did not see any of the Dade County officers at the Clay home, the cross burning or the scene of the whippings.

Constitution Staff Photo—Marion Johnson

AT BETTIS TRIAL—Defendant Frank Bettis, left, confers with, left to right, his attorney, Paul Carpenter, and witnesses J. H. Crane and David H. Williams.

The Young Men Speak Courageously

Atlanta Constitution
Atlanta Georgia
Thur 3-10-49

The Junior Chamber of Commerce of Atlanta is made up of the young men of the city. Their ideas point the way of the future. It indicates what sort of thinking we will have in leadership in the years ahead.

The outlook is good.

The Junior Chamber of Commerce has presented to City Council and the County Commissioners two requests for legislation and directives which would:

1—Ban the wearing of masks in or at public demonstrations or appearances.

2—Inform police officers that membership in the Klan or other similar organizations is incompatible with the duties of an officer and directing members of such to resign their membership.

We applaud this most sincerely.

The average policeman may not be aware of it, but a very real moral issue is involved. We doubt if resignation would change a policeman's attitude toward prisoners. If he is the brutal type he will remain so. If he is unjust he will remain so.

But, if we had this sort of legislation it would be possible to remove such officers for membership in an organization which stands for and which encourages injustice and violence. Teachers can't be good teachers and Communists. Their loyalties are elsewhere. Police officers can't be Klansmen and loyal officers.

It is estimated that perhaps more than 50 percent of each police force, city and county, belong to the Klan. Therefore, no Negro, Catholic, foreigner, Jew or openly known anti-Klan citizen can expect justice or fair treatment from these member officers. Their testimony in courts may be suspected of perjury because they have sworn first loyalty to an invisible, secret organization.

There are, for example, a number of members of Klavern No. 1 in Atlanta who have long criminal records. We possess copies of such records. These men are daily associates of at least some county and city police officers.

This explains why, in at least two recent cases, gamblers were warned of pending raids by, or through, police officers. It explains why there has been no arrest in the Ashby Street dynamiting case. Chief Jenkins has a very difficult problem. He himself is not involved. He is a Christian gentleman, therefore cannot violate those principles by membership in the Klan. Also, he respects his oath to the City Government which employs him and does not swear it away to any secret organization.

We have said before—the Klan is a cancer. It destroys courts and law enforcement bodies; it corrupts the processes of justice, and otherwise poisons any community, large or small, which does not have the moral courage to stand forthrightly against it.

The Junior Chamber of Commerce has done a real service. The issue of morality cannot be too often presented and defined. We hope, as they grow older, they will not lose their moral courage or their faith. So many do.

The 'Bloody' Klan

Iowa Bystander
Des Moines Iowa
Fri 2-13-49

DENMARK — (ANS) Grand dragon Dr. Samuel Green of Atlanta, Ga. told some 700 klansmen and 2,000 townfolk, about 300 of them colored, that the klan "will fight to the last drop of their blood" to block "equal rights" for the two races, here Wednesday night.

The hooded figures, a score of women among them, shivered in the unfriendly rained and occasionally hitched at their symbolically mud and dirt spattered regalia in a recruiting demonstration with some twenty local county and state law enforcement officers on patrol.

"We don't h a t e anybody," Green said, and argued that the klan had the same right to exist for whites as the NAACP for Negroes.

He lauded governor J. Strom Thurmond, champion of "state's rights."

Several Negroes noted in attendance continued to snicker after Green described his order as "Christian."

Flogging Of Seven Negroes Reported By Dade Sheriff

Atlanta Daily World
Atlanta Georgia

Says Klansmen Burn Cross Before Whipping Negroes

Tues. 4-5-49

TRENTON, Ga.— (INS) — The flogging of seven Negroes by a mob of masked and hooded men was disclosed Sunday by Sheriff J. M. Lynch of Dade County.

Sheriff Lynch said he and three deputies had gone to the home of Mrs. Mamie Clay, a Negro at Hooker, near Georgia-Tennessee line last night to investigate reports of "all sort of wild parties there. The sheriff said:

"As we started to raid the Clay place Klansmen took the seven Negroes away from us and told us to leave."

The sheriff said he and his men watched the hooded men herd the Negroes into cars and drive away, adding:

"What would you do if there were 100 men ordering you to keep out of it?"

One of the victims, a porter at a Chattanooga Hotel, reported that the hooded men flogged him and the others one by one with switches and leather belts, then released them.

The sheriff said he failed to recognize any of the hooded men and did not take any license plate numbers.

None of the flogging victims was hospitalized.

The seven Negroes live in Chattanooga. One of the group, William West, a porter at a hotel, described the beating.

RED ON MASK

West said a "big man wearing something red on his mask" told the group:

"You are supposed to be good people, but we have had a lot of bad reports about you."

Then, related West, "They took us up into the woods nearby and whipped us one at a time. I was the sixth to be whipped. They had me pull down my pants. One man took a leather strap and two men had switches. They beat us 12 or 15 licks and told us to run across the hill. We finally got away and came back to Chattanooga."

Sheriff Lynch said the Klansmen burned a cross before the whipping. He said he and his deputies left when the Klansmen ordered the officers to leave [illegible]

The Klan Is Officially Anti-American

Atlanta Constitution

Atlanta, Georgia

We understand the Junior Chamber of Commerce is seeking to have introduced before City Council its proposed legislation unmasking the Klan and any other similar organization.

We hope they will succeed.

Thur-4-28-49

City Council will be interested to note that the Attorney General of the United States has declared the Association of Georgia Klans; the Original Southern Klans, Inc., and the Knights of the White Camellia, subversive organizations. That means they are officially declared by the United States to be dangerous to the form of government this country supports and are also declared to be advocating force and violence in the denial of constitutional rights to others.

We agree entirely.

We have pointed out before that the Klan is certainly anti-Christian, for all its professing to be Christian. It certainly denies the teachings of Christ and it delights to profane and prostitute the cross on which Christ died. It also is un-American in that it denies rights to fellow Americans. It also opposes many guarantees of the Constitution of this country.

The City of Atlanta, it seems to us, as well as the State of Georgia, has a moral obligation to put themselves officially on record as opposing any such un-American, subversive organization.

We are glad the Attorney General of the United States and the Justice Department have added this un-American organization to the list of Communist, Fascist and any other organizations subversive to the interests of the United States. *Thur-4-28-49*

As we also have said before, the effort of today's Ku Klux Klan to claim kinship with the Reconstruction-day Klan of Nathan Bedford Forrest is like a tumblebug trying to claim kinship with an eagle.

Hooded Ku Klux Klan Finds Its Terrorism Brings Changed Reaction In Modern South

Montgomery Advertiser

Montgomery Ala.

ATLANTA, April 16—(AP)—The attitude of many Southerners, white and Negro, toward the Ku Klux Klan has changed. *Sun-4-17-49*

The Klan isn't what it used to be.

At Gainesville, Ga., 50 miles north of here, a Negro woman eyed a KKK parade from her porch rocking chair.

A dozen hooded heads turned as she sang out, "Send us yo' sheets, white folks, we'll wash 'um." The Negroes lining the road grinned broadly and as the parade moved on, a flock of giggling Negro children fell in behind, drumming loudly on tin pans.

Last February at West Columbia, S. C., Dr. Samuel Green, grand dragon of the Association of Georgia Klans, told a crowd of Klansmen and curious that unless "white supremacy" was maintained, "the day will come when a black buck Negro may ask for your daughter's hand in marriage."

She Can Always Say "No"

A voice on the outskirts drawled, "Well, she can always say 'No,' can't she?"

Most of the hecklers at the meeting, which produced a "stink bomb," were later identified as University of South Carolina students. Police were hard put to prevent a clash between Klansmen and students.

The terror or respect — take your choice — which the Klan once inspired is diminishing.

When the Klan held its big "Klanvocation" for the initiation of new members into "citizenship" near Stone Mountain, Ga., last fall, a Negro minister said he was pressed to keep his people from taking a few pot shots at men in white robes.

Boy Douses Cross

At Mumford, Ala., Feb. 20, a 12-year-old boy kicked over a burning cross and doused it in a water hole. Later that night men armed with shotguns were reported on the prowl for Klansmen.

The Mumford incident prompted Alabama's Gov. James E. Folsom to order the arrest of anyone operating a car with a concealed license plate, a favorite Klan device.

Said Folsom, "Mobs, hooded or unhooded, are not going to rule Alabama."

The time had passed when politicians were afraid to speak out against the Klan.

Irate city councils in a half dozen cities have passed anti-mask ordinances on the heels of Klan parades—Wrightsville, Columbus and Macon, Ga.; Chattanooga, Tenn.; Tallahassee and Miami, Fla.

Atlanta's Junior Chamber of Commerce is pressing for a similar ban.

Thurmond Moved Quickly

A Klan parade at Denmark, S. C., brought quick reaction from Gov. J. Strom Thurmond, who told state police to get busy enforcing laws against "intimidation" by masked men.

Green promised Thurmon he would "banish" any Klansmen guilty of violating laws.

Nobody, though, lambasted the Klan more than Gov. Fuller Warren of Florida. He called them "hooded hoodlums and sheeted jerks" after a parade through Tallahassee.

The Klan came into being after the War Between the States as a political movement to restore the franchise to ex-Confederates and to wrest control of the South from carpetbaggers and scalawags.

Just before the last Yankee soldier moved north in the 1870's, the original Klan disbanded, mission accomplished.

Advertiser Helped Kill It

Another Klan did not reappear until the 1920's and then, for nearly two decades, it rode to political power throughout the region, preaching "white supremacy" and hatred for Catholics and Jews.

This Klan succumbed to internal squabbles, public scandals, and trouble with the federal government over income taxes. Newspapers hastened the downfall by arousing public enmity toward hooded men. (The Montgomery Advertiser was among the leaders in the fight against the Klan. Grover C. Hall won the Pulitzer Prize in 1928 for his anti-KKK editorials. Throughout World War II the Klan was dormant. *Sun-4-17-49*

In 1946 it began to emerge again under the leadership of Dr. Green. This time the Klan denied hatred for any religious group. Dr. Green said the purpose of the Klan is to fight against Communism and for "the Southern way of life."

Ga. Women OK Klanrat Police Ban

Chicago Defender

Chicago Ill.

ATLANTA—More than 100 members of the white Georgia Council of Church Women meeting here last Wednesday, endorsed the Atlanta Junior Chamber of Commerce for its recommendations that policemen be barred from Ku Klux Klan membership and that the city adopt an anti-mask ordinance.

The members also agreed to work against the KKK and all other "hate" organizations after they returned to their respective homes.

The recommendations of the Junior Chamber of Commerce were made in resolutions to be presented to the Atlanta City Council.

The Klan received another blow—the last one coming from the Columbus, Ga., City Commission, which banned the burning of crosses and painting of emblems or symbols on any public or private property without consent of owners.

The ban came in an ordinance passed on the first reading. The ordinance itself cited recent cross burnings in Columbus, and said it was designed to prevent further disturbance of the peace.

Masks Outlawed In KKK Capital

Montgomery Ala.

Montgomery Advertiser

ATLANTA, May 2—(AP)—The wearing of masks was banned in this capital of the Ku Klux Klan today.

The new ordinance makes the wearing of masks in public, except for festive occasions such as Halloween, an offense punishable by a fine of $200 and 30 days in jail. It was passed unanimously by the city council. *Tues-5-3-49*

Councilman Archie Lindsey reported that on the eve of the council meeting, a piece of plywood, shaped like a Klan hood and bearing the initials KKK and a cross, was placed on his front porch. He introduced the bill.

Shortly after the discovery of the board, said Lindsey, he received an anonymous telephone call in which he was warned, "for your sake and safety, the Klan must not be unmasked."

Quash Charge Against Man Arrested During Masked KKK Parade

Atlanta Daily World

The charge against Frank Bettis, 49-year-old white man arrested by Fulton county police for drunk driving, was quashed by Fulton Criminal Court Solicitor John I. Kelly Friday.

Mr. Bettis was arrested when he protested against a Ku Klux Klan parade in the Rockdale vicinity on the night of Dec. 4. A wave of indignation followed the arrest when a leading minister, Rev. Kenneth Brown, of the Underwood Memorial Methodist Church, accused county police of actively participating in the masked parade. Fulton Police Chief G. Neal Ellis denied that his officers participated in the parade with the explanation that they were there to prevent any trouble. The incident provoked a probe by the November-December grand jury which in its presentations urged that laws be established prohibiting masked parades and prohibiting policemen from being Klansmen.

No Masking In Atlanta

Commercial Appeal

Memphis Tenn.

The South's disgust and anger at the antics of the night-shirted hoodlums who call themselves Ku Klux Klansmen is further evidenced by the unanimous action of Atlanta's City Council in barring masking on the city's streets. The ordinance was passed by a 17-0 vote after a member of the council had reported that the Klan had threatened him with violence if the masking ban was brought before the governing body. Atlanta's action is especially significant in that the Georgia metropolis is cursed by the presence of the headquarters of the Kluckers' tattered remnants.

Memphis has long had a masking ban and enforces it without difficulty. There are occasions when it puts a damper on the periodic mardi gras spirit, but despite that, Memphis manages to have a good time without masks, and so, we think, will Atlanta. *Wed-5-4-49*

RALPH McGILL

The Constitution

A Crowbar and The Millennium

Atlanta, Ga.

This is a second chapter on catching up with the notes prepared for me during my three weeks of absence from the office.

One of them relates to the vote in the Legislature on banning the wearing of masks. Wed. 1-26-49

I am a fellow who learned many years ago that the millennium isn't going to be ushered in tomorrow. Maybe we can usher it in next year, but we are not going to get around to it tomorrow. If you will come around to my office I will show you the scars I got before I learned this simple fact.

After I learned it I got myself a crowbar and I have since sweated and toiled at inching the millennium along. Now and then I can feel the weight move a little and that makes me happy. There are days and weeks and months, and even years, when it seems not to budge even an inch and that is when you become frustrated and fretful and come to believe that this is the age of the jerk and the coward and the appeaser. But, the only thing you can do is to keep your crowbar in hand and to keep prying away at the status quo.

Fury As you toil at this you often are entertained by the boys who are going to usher in the millennium tomorrow, or maybe, even, this afternoon. They do more breast-beating and squawling than one of those hairy boys trying out for the new Tarzan part. They talk about democracy (but never explain what they mean by that oft-used word) and about ideals and good government—all of which are fine and on my ticket. But, they scorn to work with the crowbar and they disdain in particular the inch-by-inch progress. They regard celebration of an inch of progress as heresy and a traitor's act. I appreciate even a half-inch. Like half a loaf, it is better than none.

All of which brings me up to the Klan vote.

Cancer The Ku Klux Klan is a cancer anywhere it appears. It can bring nothing but sorrow. It includes in its membership many good, bewildered, ill-informed persons with grievances which seem just to them, and who are used by the cynical and hypocritical exploiters of the Klan for devious purposes, none good. In some localities the Klan gets completely in the hands of the jerks and oafs and does some vicious, violent acts.

But, one of the things the crowbar crew has learned is that you will not unhood the Klan publicly until the people are willing to unhood themselves inwardly. And that includes a lot of non-members, too.

Fairness So, I thought we made a lot of progress getting the Klan bill introduced. To the credit of the Talmadge administration and House Speaker Fred Hand, who felt, no doubt properly, the bill was designed to embarrass them, the bill was not buried. What my notes did not reveal was the committee to which the bill was sent. It was sent by the Speaker, I found, to the committee including the author of the bill. It could have been sent to the drainage committee. My notes included the charges made that the Speaker had cut off debate. This, I find, from sponsors of the bill, to be completely untrue. They report they were fairly treated, and were even notified in advance that the Appropriations Bill, which has top priority, was coming out and also that a motion indefinitely to postpone the Klan bill would cute debate short.

Unfounded and untrue charges against the Speaker do not help the anti-Klan cause, but instead allow the pro-Klan group ammunition to cry that other charges against them, backed by fact, also are untrue.

Progress I frankly was encouraged by the support the bill received. I had not thought it would get to the floor. It got substantial support and the fight made by the anti-Klan forces was fine and courageous. It will have a good effect. The Klan, for all its present support, is a dying organization because it is fundamentally wrong and un-Christian. It will bring grief to any community which encourages it.

Wed. 1-26-49

The proposed bill for qualifications of voters is also representative of an inch of progress. That Supreme Court decisions have helped is, of course, true. But, aside from the impractical and unfair proposals to require registration every one or two years, the bill represents an astonishingly fair start.

The proposals for the minimum education bill also include the same wage standard for white and colored teachers.

There are inches of progress to be seen in the midst of discouragement. It would have been a wonderful thing had Georgia banned the wearing of masks. It is too bad they didn't. It was so simple a thing to do that for most of us, and for the rest of the nation, there was hope it would be done. But Georgia has come a political road and economic road which has put hoods on a lot of minds and hearts, some of them pretty good people, too. And until the inward unhooding is done we won't get the outward removal.

So, let us all pick up our crowbars and go back to work, inching the millennium along a bit nearer.

Committee Okays Bill Hitting Klan

The Constitution 1-15-49 Atlanta, Ga.

By ALBERT RILEY

A bill aimed at the Ku Klux Klan moved a step nearer enactment in the Georgia Legislature yesterday as the solons completed their first week's work, throwing more than a dozen new bills of statewide application into the hopper. Sat.

The anti-Klan measure, introduced by Rep. John Greer, of Lanier County, would ban the wearing of masks by any organization at public or private meetings. It was approved by the House Committee on Public Welfare, which is chairmaned by Greer.

Meanwhile, in the Senate opponents of a bill to abolish the Georgia Citizens Council won a point when they got the bill re-committed to the State of the Republic Committee for a public hearing next Wednesday at 3 p. m., in the Public Service Commission chamber.

Sen. Crawford Pilcher, Talmadge floor leader, who introduced the bill, asked that it be sent back to the Committee at the request of Sen. Roy LeCraw, of Atlanta.

Sen. LeCraw exhibited a stack of telegrams he had received from persons urging that the Citizens Council be retained. He said that in view of such interest in the Council he thought the bill to kill it should get further study.

The Senate passed its first bill, one permitting the Secretary of State to have custody of records in the Governor's office, and started debate on a bill to abolish the Agricultural and Industrial Development Board.

The debate was postponed until Monday, however, so the Senate could hear the Governor's budget message.

Sen. Walter Harrison, of Millen, voiced vigorous opposition to killing the A&ID Board and setting up a Department of Commerce in its place.

"The only trouble with the Agricultural and Industrial Development Board is that it was established by another Governor," Harrison said. Sat.

"We can't abolish all the good done by other Governors," he added. 1-15-49

Harrison declared that "no one is charging that this Board has not done a good job. It has brought Georgia to the forefront, and I see nothing to be gained by changing its name with every administration."

Sen. Pilcher argued that the Department of Commerce would cost the State only $50,000 a year whereas the A&ID Board costs between $50,000 and $70,000 a year. Harrison quoted "Thrasher's Bible," as he replied that the State Auditor's report showed the Board cost only $45,000 last year.

Most of the new legislation introduced yesterday originated in the House. Among this legislation was a bill that would require automo-

Bill to Unmask Klan Is Killed In Ga. House

Washington D.C. Washington Post

Atlanta, Ga., Jan. 20 (U.P.)—After three hours of fiery debate in which the Ku Klux Klan was held up as "a shining symbol of the Southern way of life," the Georgia House of Representatives today killed a bill to unmask the organization. Fri. 1-21-49

The vote was 89 to 65 against the proposal. Fifty-one members did not vote.

Proponents denied that the bill was aimed directly at the Klan.

But Representative Julian Bennett attacked it as "aiming to do away with an organization that saved this country during Reconstruction days."

Rebel yells and the stamping of feet greeted Bennett when he told the legislators they would be listed with such Southern heroes as Robert E. Lee if they killed the measure.

The bill was introduced by Representative John Greer. He said it would only prohibit members of secret organizations or citizens from wearing masks in public or at public demonstrations for the purpose of hiding their identity. He added that it would allow masking on Halloween and by Santa Clauses at Christmas time.

But Bennett charged that it would "set in motion forces that will ultimately destroy our way of life." Fri. 1-21-49

And in Georgia, Too!

Now Wait a Minute! Negro Ku Kluxers?

Pittsburg Courier Pittsburg Pennsilvania

CONYERS, Ga. — Georgians were looking with eyes of suspicion last week at the "report" by the Rockdale County sheriff that a group of Negroes calling themselves "Ku Klux Klansmen" waylaid and beat two tenant farmers. Sat. 1-8-49

Sheriff W. L. McCart quoted Billy Farmer, a white man, as saying two of his tenants, Mr. and Mrs. Tobe Kelly, told him they were beaten by a white-robed but unhooded Negro group.

INVITED FOR LIQUOR

First reports were that the Kellys were invited to ride down the road a short distance to get some Christmas liquor. The victims were taken out of the car and beaten with pistol butts it was stated. Sat. 1-8-49

Police arrested Carl Brown and his sister-in-law, Miss Dolly Mae Brown, on charges of assault. It was said that the Browns had accused the Kellys of gossiping about them. All the principals were said to have engaged in a drinking spree prior to the assaults.

MORE REPORTS

A later investigation of the affair said that the victims had not reported to the sheriff that the assaulters wore robes or hoods, but that the perpetrators acted like members of the Ku Klux Klan.

Rockdale County, which adjoins DeKalb, is reportedly a stronghold of the Ku Klux Klan, the nefarious organization which thrives on prejudice promotion in the South.

NO KLAN IN DADE, DR. GREEN CLAIMS

Atlanta Constitution Atlanta, Georgia

Dr. Samuel Green, Grand Dragon of the Ku Klux Klan, yesterday denied knowledge of a reported flogging of seven Chattanooga Negroes Saturday night by a group of hooded Ku Klux Klansmen near Hooker.

"I don't have a Klan in Dade County," he said. "Besides, Klansmen always uphold the law; we won't tolerate lawlessness. I will investigate this incident. If we find any Klansmen were involved, they will be banished from the Klan and I will help prosecute them."

Sheriff John Lynch, of Dade County, had told the Chattanooga Times that the Klansmen took the Negroes from his custody before the flogging and ordered him to leave. Tues. 1-4-49

The Constitution Atlanta, Ga. Thurs. 1-27-49

Constitution Staff Photo—Marion Johnson

BETTIS TRIAL WITNESSES MILL IN CORRIDORS

Atlanta Area Vote on Klan Bill

The Constitution Atlanta, Ga. Fri. 1-21-49

Most of the Representatives from Fulton, DeKalb, and Cobb Counties voted against killing the measure unmasking the Klan. None of them voted in favor of killing the bill, but three failed to vote.

Rep. Jess Walton, of Fulton; Pierre Howard, of DeKalb, and Harold Willingham were not in the House when the roll call vote was taken.

Reps. Raymond Reed, of Cobb, and Muggsy Smith, of Fulton, were among the authors of the Klan-unmasking bill, and they led the fight against killing the measure. Rep. Luther Alverson, of Fulton, and Reps. H. O. Hubert and Hugh McWhorter, of DeKalb, voted against killing the bill.

Minister Steps From Stand, Faints

By CELESTINE SIBLEY

The question of whether Frank Bettis, Atlanta flour salesman, was arrested the night of Dec. 4, because he was driving while drunk or because he sought to interfere with a Ku Klux Klan parade is expected to be decided today by a Criminal Court Jury.

Atlanta, Ga. Thurs. 1-27-49

Sol. John I. Kelley placed 12 witnesses on the stand yesterday who said Bettis was drunk.

Defense Atty. Paul Carpenter placed 22 witnesses on the stand who said he was sober.

Bettis himself will take the stand today and give his own version of what has become of one of the most sensational traffic cases ever tried in Fulton County.

The slender, bespectacled salesman is pledged by his attorney to give startling evidence to show that his trial is not merely a trial for a traffic violation but "involves the issue of whether a hooded order or decent, law-abiding citizens shall govern Fulton County."

The trial opened yesterday morning before Judge Jesse M. Wood and a couple hundred people—half of whom were sworn as witnesses and promptly banished from the courtroom.

It gathered momentum as Ptl. D. T. Kirkland, one of the arresting officers, testified that Bettis created a drunken disturbance at the intersection of Chattahoochee Avenue and Howell Mill Road, outside the city limits, about 8 p. m., Dec. 4, and later was arrested when he was found weaving along Northside Drive in his automobile.

It reached a dramatic recess shortly before 6 p. m., when the Rev. J. K. Brown, pastor of the Underwood Methodist Church, and star witness for Bettis, stepped from the stand and fainted.

"I've been sick, your Honor," the minister said to Judge Wood when he had completed his testimony. "May I go home?" The Judge gave his consent and Brown walked from the court room and collapsed. A Grady ambulance was called and a few minutes later the minister was revived. He walked from the building between an intern and the ambulance driver.

Brown, a former Air Force Chaplain, said the presence of the Klan in the neighborhood of his church had created an "air of excitement and expectancy" and he had joined Bettis in protesting the parade. He insisted Bettis was sober "but excited" and quoted him as telling the officers: "I used to be a member of the Klan and I haven't received any notice. We haven't done anything wrong in this neighborhood. Why are you here? Why can't I get in touch with Dr. Green?"

The minister said the police officer replied, "You may have belonged to Jesus Christ but you'd better get in your car and go home or I'll put you in that little white car and take you to jail!"

Twenty-one previous witnesses, including County Commissioner J. M. Aldredge, testified they had seen Bettis between 3 p. m. and as late as 7:45 p. m. Dec. 4 and he was not drinking. Among these were tradesmen, friends he had taken to the polls to vote in the justice of the peace election, his brother-in-law, W. L. Ash, a Baptist minister, and Reuben Lyle, a carpenter he had working in his basement.

On the other side, testimony ranged from Patrolman Kirkland's, "He was stumbling drunk", to the assertion of James T. Green, of the County Fingerprint Department, that he had looked Bettis over when he was docketed at the Tower and marked his record: "T. D. I. P.", meaning, "Too drunk to print."

Lt. Calvin Cates, a member of the Fulton County Police force for 31 years, said he was summoned via radio by Ptl. Kirkland and Ptl. J. D. Roberts after they had arrested Bettis on Northside Drive near the rock quarry and Bettis reeked of "wine, whiskey or beer" and was noisily complaining because Dr. Green and Ralph McGill didn't let me know there was going to be a parade"

Later from his place in the courtroom Bettis vehemently denied mentioning Ralph McGill's name either at the scene of the parade or at the time of his arrest.

The Constitution

"I never said anything like that to the officers. I have at no time mentioned his name. I haven't been a Klansman myself for 17 years."

Officers admitted that within a few minutes after Bettis was docketed he was allowed to sign his own bond and released with two deputies assigned to take him to the home of his brother, E. L. Springer. Deputy Paul Lambert admitted he had been a member of the Klan himself, as did Lt. Cates, and Lambert added, on cross examination that he "could be" a member still.

Thurs.

C. C. Carden, Jr., one of five spectators at the parade, who testified Bettis was drunk and cursing, admitted he was pro-Klan in his sympathies. *1-27-49*

"Did you have your robe with you?" Atty. Carpenter asked Carden after he had testified that he saw three Klansmen directing traffic.

Atlanta, Ga.

"I'm not a Klansman but give me an application and I'll fill it out!" Carden said. He later said he didn't see why the police "didn't get out there and beat him (Bettis) and throw him in jail."

Members of the five-man jury, selected swiftly, but after heated insistence from Carpenter that the group be "purged for Klansmen," are: Paul B. Willis, of the Whittaker Paper Company; Lee P. Wisdom, U. S. Army; W. L. Collins, Southern Railway; L. C. Perdue, retired, and L. F. Caissert, Central of Georgia Railway.

Fighter Of KKK Granted Award

Montgomery Advertiser Montgomery Ala

ATLANTA, Jan. 23.—(AP)—Walter Bowland, former Lakeview, Ga., high school athletic coach, has been selected for a merit award for "his stand against the Ku Klux Klan."

The awards were announced in New York tonight at a benefit show sponsored by eight organizations.

In February, 1948, Bowland announced the Klan had threatened to "get" him because of a fight he had with a former student. A cross was burned on his front lawn while Bowland was away. Mrs. Bowland, who was pregnant, went out, kicked the cross over, and called the hooded figures "yellow cowards."

The couple armed themselves and promised to see the threat through. Bowland, however, was dismissed in March and he and his wife went to the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Bowland, in Paducah, Ky.

The awards of merit were made for "important contributions to civil rights of American citizens."

RALPH McGILL

Thinking Out Loud About Our State

Georgia is in many ways a peculiar state, a statement by no means original, but one attested to by many acts and covenants.

But, in no manner is she more peculiar than in her politics and efforts to improve them. Her liberals spend their time in jealousies and suspicions of one another. There is a taint of exhibitionism in her liberalism, a taint by no means confined to Georgia, though with us it is not a faint one. Her liberals tend mostly to be individuals, fiercely so, and that, I think is a good thing. She has her share of the liberals who become very indignant because others do not rush into the arena with beating of breast and Tarzan yells of defiance, but who say, "I am sorry I cannot participate. My position does not permit me." But they can write bitter letters to the editor.

Atlanta Ga. Constitution

She has, mercifully, only a few of those who believe they were called by God to save the world. They are bush-league messiahs, given to dire forebodings about democracy and the ballot. But, we do not have, God being kind, even one professional charlatan among the lot, whose lectures and whose writings are for "hire," a happy condition which all of our neighbors do not enjoy.

Mon. 8-15-49

Rules

Our problem is compounded by our system. There are counties, among our 159, where human life is not worth very much. We have about 20 such, and perhaps 20 more where conditions of government are hideously corrupt and cynical.

In the more corrupt counties there are sheriff's who shake down the small country store merchant type, with their one gasoline pump and their stocks of coffee, canned goods, tobacco, soft drinks and beer for monthly payments.

These counties are all "dry," yet in each county seat and town there are men who handle liquor. This is done with the connivance of the sheriff's office. The scum that is in all counties, both white and colored, rises to the top in these counties. The decent people know and are ashamed. They are afraid. They don't want their houses or barns burned or their business ruined, nor do they want to be killed in the dark of the moon. Preachers close their eyes, or move away.

Paradox

These are counties where it is all right to kill a Negro in cold blood, to put on robes and flog a woman or a man near to death, to sell and make whisky, but where the town thinks it wicked and wrong to have Sunday movies or baseball. There is no real law in these counties. The two or three lawyers who do 90 percent of the business know their towns and the jury lists and they know the rackets, too, even though they are not a part of them. They can almost tell you, to the man, how a jury will react in any given court situation.

These counties have the klan, but they have always had it and always will have it so long as their affairs are run by corrupted, greedy, evil men who have cowed the really Christian population. This situation is really gangsterism in overalls and a pickup truck, whereas in Chicago and New York it is in tailormade suits and expensive cars. It has the same qualities, the same cruelty and lack of morals. These counties and their towns, where the good people live in fear, are the citadels of ku kluxism and all that is mean and unworthy of the clay made in God's image. Yet, even this will pass away, and is passing, though it seems, even as the Biblical parable has it, to flourish.

Hope

I am aware of all this, and yet even in my moods of deepest melancholia, which frequently come upon me, I have a certain faith in our very cussedness. I believe that of all the deep South cotton states, with all the problems of poverty, of the flight from cotton, and the transition from agriculture to industry, Georgia soundly will emerge from the transition. And that despite the fact that we, of all the deep South states, have the least in raw materials. We do not have coal, or oil, or gold or iron or bauxite in any quantities, our orators to the contrary notwithstanding. Our soils are not "the best," and they will not "grow anything that may be grown anywhere else." But, they will grow grass, and many crops valuable for food and fabrication.

Maybe it is a good thing we tear one another down. We have attained no state political bosses or machines. We still are in political, as well as economic, ferment. I like it. If it were not for the low-down, mean and ugly ones; if it were not for the evil corrupted counties; if it were not for those who believe if we didn't have it 40 years ago it is no good today, I'd feel better about things. I get might blue at times. But I rally.

Like Hitler's

The KKK cowards at Unadilla, at Irwinton, at Iron City and elsewhere, are men who have it in their minds and hearts to be brutes and worse. They are the type which made up Hitler's blackshirts. Hitler got men to kill little children and old men and women; to put millions to death because they were "inferior" to his standards. Hitler could have got recruits from this country as well. Georgia has her share of them as recent events prove. Indeed, the roster of the klan would have supplied him with an adequate number of brutalized men who enjoy seeing human beings suffer at their hands.

But, dark, evil clouds are not God. There is so much to fight for, in Georgia, and so much to fight against. And there is a lot of beauty and promise and progress. The progress is difficult to see. Those who read of us and come to visit us, see the exisiting injustices, discriminations and evils. They should have seen them 20 years ago. Confusedly, with many great and cruel delays and disillusionments, we progress—slowly.

KLUXERS CHARGE ASSAULT

Klan-Battling Mayor Faces Six Warrants

IRON CITY—(UP)—Six warrants have been sworn out for Mayor C. L. Drake, whose feuding with the Ku Klux Klan has resulted in gunfire, it was disclosed yesterday.

Two of the warrants were sworn out by Klan leaders and another by the wife of one of the Klansmen.

Constitution

James Beard, alleged Grand Cyclops of the Iron City Klavern, has charged Drake with shooting at another. Mrs. Beard said in her warrant that she fears bodily harm from the Mayor.

Bill Hendrix, Florida Ku Klux Klan official from Tallahassee, Fla., charged Drake with attempted murder.

8-12-49

In the other warrants, one E. J. Ingram accused Drake of threatening his life with a pistol on July 9 and former Police Chief J. L. Tyler charged the Mayor with assault and battery and illegally pointing a gun at another.

A month ago Drake routed a band of hooded men with shotgun fire when he saw them approaching his house. Last weekend he and a group of his friends hid out on a highway and scattered a Klan parade with gunfire.

Drake denied he used a weapon in Saturday's gunfight, in which two Klansmen were wounded. His friends did all the shooting, he said, and the Klansmen fired back.

The warrants, filed in Seminole County Superior Court, will be studied during the January session of the Grand Jury.

Meanwhile, Hendrix announced that a parade of the Klan scheduled here for Saturday night has been called off on orders from "the Imperial Wizard," whom he did not identify.

The Klan parade was called after last weekend's shooting, in defiance of the Mayor's actions.

Hendrix is an agent for the Southern Klans, Inc.

Atlanta Ga.

At the same time, Beard admitted he was a Klansman but denied he was Grand Cyclops of the Klavern here. Hendrix, however, said Beard headed the Iron City Klavern.

Beard told reporters they could "get a good story" Monday when the City Council meets to give final action to an ordinance prohibiting masking.

The ordinance was approved immediately following its first reading recently.

Beard would not say whether there would be an effort to unseat Drake or defeat the ordinance.

Federal Jury To Investigate Dade Flogging

Atlanta Ga. Constitution

A Federal Grand Jury will investigate the April 2 flogging of seven Negroes at Hooker in Dade County by a hooded mob, in which local law enforcement officials allegedly co-operated, U. S. Atty. J. Ellis Mundy disclosed yesterday.

The Grand Jury, to sit in Rome, will begin a study of the case Tuesday, Mundy said.

"The inquiry will be directed toward determination of whether the victims had been deprived of their civil rights under the laws of the United States," Mundy said, "and toward ascertaining the persons who may have deprived them of such rights."

Const. 7-31-49

On the night of April 2, the home of Mamie Clay, Negro, in the village of Hooker allegedly was visited by local law enforcement officers and by a mob of some 50 to 75 persons, wearing robes and hoods similar to regalia of the Ku Klux Klan, the U. S. Attorney recalled.

A large cross was erected and burned opposite the Clay house, and seven Negroes were reported taken into custody by Sheriff John W. Lynch and Deputies McCauley, Hartline and Bleckley.

The Negroes were said subsequently to have been received by the hooded band and taken to a spot near by, where floggings were administered.

Mundy said it was reported the robed and hooded mob had assembled earlier in the evening of April 2 at Trenton and proceeded from there to Hooker.

Mundy announced Allen E. Lockerman, Atlanta attorney and former Asst. U. S. Atty. here, has been appointed by the Attorney General of the United States as a Special Assistant, to aid Mundy in presentation of the case to the Grand Jury and subsequent prosecution if indictments are returned.

Back Income Taxes Paid By Georgia KKK

ATLANTA, Sept. 11—(AP)—The Association of Georgia Klans had paid $9,332 in back income taxes, Internal Revenue Collector Marion Allen announced today. Allen said the Klan paid the federal assessment "under protest" but would not comment further.

Imperial Wizard Sam Roper asserted the case is still in litigation and that the money was taken from a safety deposit box through a writ of attachment.

Allen Bares Threats in Klan Suit

Marion H. Allen, U. S. Collector or Revenue for Georgia, has been plagued by threatening telephone calls since he filed a tax lien against the Association of Georgia Klans last Wednesday.

In one instance, the caller identified herself as the wife of a Klansman and told Allen she had overheard "plans to take him for a ride."

Allen—who, as official representative of the Federal Government, is seeking $9,332.49 in unpaid income tax assessments against the Klan for 1946, 1947 and 1948—yesterday half-humorously disclosed this "anonymous reaction" to the Government suit.

"I have no way of knowing who the callers are," he declared. "Sometimes my telephone rings and when I answer, the caller hangs up in my face."

The United States Collector received one anonymous call before his suit was filed and before death of the late Dr. Samuel Green, former Imperial Wizard of the Klan, he said.

His home telephone frequently rings in the wee hours of the morning, with callers "just hanging up."

Allen said he "had not given the calls much attention" and had not reported them to any law-enforcement officials. He added he had received no threatening letters in regard to the suit and "had not been approached on the street or otherwise."

The Federal official said Internal Revenue agents were pressing investigations in connection with the tax suit and insisted, "We'll go right along with it as before."

Allen, at the time the Federal suit was filed last week, also served levies on all Atlanta banks to prevent the Klan from withdrawing any funds it might have on deposit.

He had filed a similar tax lien in 1946 against the old Ku Klux Klan for $685,355 in unpaid taxes—but James A. Colescott, then Imperial Wizard, "foiled" the Federal Government by dissolving the Klan.

Mayor, Klan Officials Bound Over To Jury

DONALDSONVILLE, GA., Aug. 13—(U.P.)—A superior court judge today stepped into little Iron City's Ku Klux Klan feud and bound over the mayor, a Klan official, and four others for grand jury action.

Mayor C. L. Drake, three of his citizens' anti-Klan battalion, and Klan agent Bill Hendrix, of Tallahassee, Fla., were each released under $1,000 bonds on charges of assault with intent to murder.

Superior Court Judge Peter Geer, of the Pataula Circuit, bound the men over to Seminole County's January grand jury session in connection with last Sunday's armed skirmish between Klansmen and townspeople.

Irresponsible Acts Cited By KKK Chief

ATLANTA, Ga.—(SNS)—

An edict from Imperial Wizard Samuel Green Monday ripped the masks from members of the "Invisible Empire" of the Association of Georgia Klans.

The kingpin of the sheeted knights told International News Service that he issued the mask ban because of actions of "irresponsible persons who have used what appeared to be Klan robes and masks to commit unlawful acts."

This is the second time within a decade that an imperial wizard has ordered the knights of the Ku Klux Klan to discard their hoods.

Green, who has heretofore used the title "Grand Dragon," said Monday that his new title of "Imperial Wizard" was conferred upon him Sunday in Atlanta at a meeting of the Imperial convocation.

Wizard James A. Colescott, a veternarian, banned the mask or visor in April, 1940.

Observers believed Green's order is a result of recent [illegible] credited to the Klan by law enforcement officials.

Green's order was printed on gaudy red and black stationery with a black dragon engraved at the top.

The Imperial edict stated:

"After the signing of this edict, it shall be illegal and unlawful for any members of the Association of Georgia Klans (either male or female) to be or appear, upon any street, road or highway in these United States, wearing a mask or visor.

"Violations of this edict shall be punishable by banishment from the Klan."

The letter, which was stamped "Office of the Grand Dragon," was signed "Dr. Samuel Green, Imperial Wizard, Association of Georgia Klans."

Kluxer Promises Council Fireworks

IRON CITY, GA., Aug. 11—(AP)—A Ku Klux Klan parade planned for Saturday night has been postponed, but a Klansman promised "things will pop" at a meeting of city council Monday night.

James Beard, who identified himself as a member of the Klan, told a newsman "be sure and attend Monday night's city council meeting if you want a good story."

Beard refused to elaborate, but it is expected efforts will be made to repeal an ordinance barring public wearing of masks.

Mayor C. L. Drake has twice recently exchanged gunfire with Klansmen. Last Saturday night following a Klan parade he pursued a Klan official into Alabama and had him jailed.

The Georgia department of public safety sent two troopers and a high officer yesterday to supplement the five-man station at nearby Donalsonville.

Former Cop To Head Klan

Ex-Georgia Official Is To Succeed Dr. Green

ATLANTA, Aug. 27—(AP)—A former Atlanta police lieutenant and one-time state official is the new imperial wizard of the Association of Georgia Klans.

Samuel W. Roper, 54, announced today he will succeed Dr. Samuel Green, who died last week.

Roper was head of the Georgia Bureau of Investigation under the late Gov. Eugene Talmadge, "White Supremacy" advocate. He resigned recently from a job with the State Department of Corrections.

The new Georgia Klan chief said he expects "to make the Klan just as active as I possibly can."

He added that he hopes to "carry on Dr. Green's fight for so many years against un-American influences."

The Association of Georgia Klans which he now heads is on the list of subversive agencies announced by former Attorney General Tom Clark. The Georgia group also has members in Tennessee and South Carolina and is considered the successor to the original Ku Klux Klan, dissolved when the Federal Government brought a huge income tax lein against it.

Roper's appointment came as several other groups fought for leadership in the invisable empire.

Dr. Lycurgus Spinks, Alabama minister, recently announced he is the imperial emperor of several Klan groups claiming membership of 200,000.

KKK Parade In Augusta

AUGUSTA, Ga. — (INS) — Ku Klux Klansmen paraded through Augusta Friday night, some of them with dark glasses and false mustaches where masks used to be.

The Kluxsters warned of the Augusta law that forbids them from hiding their faces-rode in some 200 autos through the downtown section before a smattering of onlookers and through the Negro section of town before more white than Negroes.

About 500 Klansmen took part in the festivities which included a 200-foot cross burning and speeches by KKK Kingspins Sam Roper of Atlanta, and Dr. Lycurgus Spinks, of Mississippi.

Spinks told the assemblage of chilly men and women that the lan was patriotic and also gave advice to the lovelorn, tiraded against Communists, Federal Bureaucrats and some segments of the press which opposes the Klan.

Attention! Attention!

Join Today! ALL WHITE MEN!

The Original Southern Klans, Inc.

KNIGHTS OF THE KU KLUX KLAN

Ga

What do we stand for? What do we fight for?

We stand for white supremacy and the preservation of white womanhood! Courier Sat. 12-10-49

We are fighting communism, and mulatto politicking!

In recent weeks, several of Savannah's white women have been attacked by negroes. What has been done with their assailants? Pittsburgh, Pa.

Look!

A white woman was attacked on Bonaventure Road by a negro. Her attacker was freed!

A white woman was attacked by a negro at Oglethorpe Ave. and East Broad – the negro got a paltry twelve months sentence.

What will be done with the negro who attacked a sixteen year old white girl on Lincoln Street Hallowe'en night. THAT IS UP TO YOU!

JOIN A FIGHTING ORGANIZATION

WHITE MEN! WHITE WOMEN!

HAVE YOU HAD ENOUGH OF MULATTO POLITICKING?

WHITE MAN, BE A KLANSMAN!

WHITE WOMEN, BE A KLANSWOMAN!

JOIN TODAY! THE ORIGINAL SOUTHERN KLANS, INC., KNIGHTS OF THE KU KLUX KLAN.

Phone 4-7919 **EXALTED CYCLOPS**

KKK On March—If anyone thinks the Ku Klux Klan is dead . . . or dying, take a look at the above. Leaflets such as these are being distributed in all white neighborhoods of Savannah, Ga.

Two Freed In Flog Trials

ROME, Ga. Three defendants Friday lost their plea for dismissal of charges against them in the trial of 12 defendants, charged with the masked flogging of seven men near Hooker, Ga., last April.

Although two of the defendants were cleared of charges because of insufficient evidence, releas for Sam Peters, Rossville Baptist preacher and two other men was denied.

The two defendants who were cleared of charges were L. C. Spears, and John Wilkins, who is presently Trenton City recorder.

Openting the defense Friday, Attorney Frank Gleason called Woodrow Daniel to the stand. Daniel vehemently denied that he or his car participated in the masked flogging of the hooded parade that preceded the moonlight beatings.

Joe Blevins, however had previously testified that he recognized Daniels when the latter raised his hood to light a cigarette. Other witnesses had testified that they saw Daniel's car in the parade.

Meanwhile, prosecution witnesses who had testified against the defendant, refused to return home Thursday night, because they feared retalitation by the Ku Klux Klan Many of the people stayed in Rome Thursday night and returned home Friday morning.

All seven Negroes were brought to the stand. In turn they recounted a black night of terror and intimidation. They told how the Klans dragged them from the home of Mrs. Mamie Clay and beat them Several of the men nervously told the court how the defendants had talked about hanging them and dragged them with ropes behind their cars.

The prosecution sprang a surprise move Thursday when a parade of witnesses testified that the same night the seven men were beaten the Klansmen flogegd a white man and visited the home of three families.

When Defense Attorney Gleason tried to justify the actions of the Klans by attempting to show that homes visited were disorderly and inhabitated by drunks Assistant District Attorney Chatty Martin asserted:

"There can be no justification for anybody taking the law into his own hands." Judge Hooper agreed

Klansman Tells Of Part In Ga. Flogging

Says Victims Lined Up, Made To Undress Before Flogging

ROME, Ga—(SNS)—Federal jurors Thursday heard an admitted Klansman blandly tell how he took part in the flogging of seven Negroes on April 2.

The Federal jurors also heard charges that the Georgia Bureau of Investigation had tried to whitewash the Ku Klux Klan before the trial started.

Calmly, Brady Boatner, a member of the Trenton Klan, recounted how on April 2 he drove with Dennis Holland and Truman Purcell one of the defendants, in Purcell's bright red truck.

The courtroom was hushed as Boatner asserted:

"We just stood around in our robes and hoods while a bunch set a cross afire. Then we went into a Negro woman's yard and they brought out four or five men. I was off a right smart piece and couldn't tell whether they were white or black.

"They took them down to a little church house and we were a little late getting there. When we got there they had six or seven colored boys (sic) lined up and made them take off their pants and then whupped (sic) them. I was just looking on myself and didn't hit the boys."

After they "whupped the boys," Boatner declared that the Klansmen headed for Lookout Mountain where they burned another cross.

A Trenton grocer and filling station operator, said that after Robert Keener, one of the defendants, had told him about the flogging James Hillen of the Georgia Bureau of Investigation, had tried to get him to say that Keener was drunk when he discussed the flogging.

Hillens said that the GBI had been summoned as a defense witness, but U. S. District Attorney Ellis Munday countered that the GBI had furnished the defense with documents instead of delivering them in open court.

As the government nears the end of its case, defense attorneys indicated that they had enough witnesses to carry the trial on several more days. Up to this point witnesses have pointed out Sheriff John William Lynch, of Dade county, and Deputies William M. Hartline, N. Stokes McCauley and John Bleckley as participants in the cross burning and the flogging of the men.

Flog Defendant Is Backed By Witnesses

ROME, Ga.— (INS) —A group of defense witnesses appeared in Federal Court Monday to uphold Woodrow Daniel's Story that he was not in Georgia the night seven Negroes were flogged.

Daniel, one of 10 defendants in the mass civil rights trial, claims he was in Long Island, Ala., just across the Georgia line, the night of April 2, when the Negroes were beaten by a group of robed and hooded men near Hooker, Ga.

The defendants, including Dade County Sheriff John W. Lynch and three of his deputies, are charged with arresting the Negroes falsely and turning them over to the gang for whipping.

Federal Judge Frank A. Hooper granted two of the 12 men originally indicated verdicts of Acquittal on the grounds that there was not sufficient evidence to convict them.

They are L. C. Spears, former Trenton, Ga., Postmaster, and Trenton City recorder John Wilkins

CIVIL RIGHTS CASE ENDS IN MISTRIAL

Jury Deadlock Holds After 48 Hours' Deliberation

By BEM PRICE
(The Associated Press)

Rome, Ga., Dec. 17—The mass civil rights trial of 10 men, with its tales of seven flogged Negroes and night riding Ku Klux Klansmen, ended in a mistrial Saturday.

The decision was made by US district Judge Frank A. Hooper after jury foreman Herman D. Casey, Jr., Rome auto salesman, announced a hopeless deadlock.

Casey said that since the first ballot the jury had been divided seven for conviction, five for acquittal.

The jury returned to the courtroom precisely 48 hours after the case was received at 2:45 p. m. Thursday.

Victory, Defense Claims

Defense attorney Frank M. Gleason of Rossville, Ga., said, "I think it is a signal victory for the defense."

As for the defendants, they received the decision with little expression, fully aware they still are subject to further prosecution.

US district attorney J. Ellis Mundy could not be reached for comment.

Each of the 10 defendants was accused in a two-count indictment of plotting to deprive seven Negroes of their constitutional rights by arresting them "without cause" April 2 and then surrendering them to a Ku Klux Klan mob for whipping.

Deprived of Rights

By so doing, the government charged in the US district court, the Negroes were deprived of their rights to be immune from illegal punishment and to receive equal protection under the law.

It was a weary and slightly grim jury which reported itself deadlocked.

Since Nov. 21 the jurors have been bombarded with nearly 900,000 (T) words of testimony from 113 witness, 67 of them for the government.

Throughout 18 days of testimony and legal wrangling the government tried to show that there had been a conspiracy by the defendants and the Ku Klux Klan to seize and beat the Negroes.

Defense attorney Frank M. Gleason of Rossville fought back with the contention that the matter properly belonged in state courts as a matter of assault and battery and was no within the jurisdiction of the federal government.

KKK Prayers Before Beating

The case had its beginning the night of April 2 in the tiny community of Hooker, Ga., 12 miles southeast of Chattanooga, Tenn.

There, the government charged, the hooded and robed members of the "invisible empire" went that early spring night to burn a cross before the home of Mrs. Mamie Clay, a Negro.

The seizure was preceded, the government charged, by a cross burning and prayer meeting atop Hooker Hill.

From the clay home the seven Negroes were driven to a hollow and then marched one by one, a Klansman on each side, up a hill.

At the top the Negroes were made to remove their trousers, and then were beaten with sticks, ropes, and leather straps.

Coincidence, Says Defense

The government tried to prove it was part of the plot that the Negroes were arrested by the Dade officers.

Lynch and his deputies testified they never say the seven Negroes who claimed they were flogged, but only two others they were holding for drunkenness.

Lynch said these two Negroes were the ones seized from him by the mob of 50 to 75 night raiders.

Gleason argued that the presence of the two Dade officers at Hooker as the Klan arrived was just an "unfortunate" coincidence.

In its efforts to bolster the conspiracy charge, the government brought in three witnesses to tell of Klansmen calling that same night to warn of moral matters.

Admit Delivering Cross

Deputy William Hartline and defendant Sam Peters, a Baptist evangelistic singer, admitted building and delivering the cross to Hooker Hill. Hartline testified, though, that it was just a coincidence that he was at Hooker Hill about the time it was burned, while Peters said he was there in plain clothes with his wife as an innocent bystander.

Another defendant, Truman Purcell, 55-year-old carpenter, admitted that he was at the cross burning but took no part in the seizure. He said the Klansmen were imported from another section under the leadership of kleagle (organizer) Walter Arp of Rossville. These were the men, said Purcell, who did the whipping, who did the whipping. Purcell identified himself as the former exalted cyclops of the provisional klavern at Trenton. One of the beaten Negroes, Charlie Roberts, said the sheriff was present when the seizure took place and the Klansman "told us they was gonna hang us."

Roberts said he appealed to Lynch, "I asked the sheriff 'you are the sheriff, can't you help us'? But he just turned his back and walked away."

Georgia Flogging Case Ends in Mistrial After 48-Hour Deadlock

Jury Foreman Reports 7-5 Vote for Conviction Of 10 Accused Men

By the Associated Press

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Mr. Casey said that since the first ballot the jury had been divided seven for conviction, five for acquittal.

The jury returned to the courtroom precisely 48 hours after the case was received at 2:45 p.m. Thursday.

Defense Calls It Victory.

Defense Attorney Frank M. Gleason of Rossville, Ga., said, "I think it is a signal victory for the defense."

The defendants received the decision with little expression, fully aware they still are subject to further prosecution. Those on trial were Sheriff John W. Lynch of Dade County, three of his deputies, and six private citizens.

Each was accused in a two-count indictment of plotting to deprive seven Negroes of their constitutional rights by arresting them "without cause" April 2 and then surrendering them to a Ku Klux Klan mob for whipping.

By so doing the Government charged in the United States District Court the Negroes were deprived of their rights to be immune from illegal punishment and to receive equal protection under the law.

Jury Is Weary and Grim.

It was a weary and slightly grim jury which handed in the verdict.

Since November 21 the jurors have been bombarded with nearly 900,000 words of testimony from 113 witnesses, 67 of them for the Government.

Throughout 18 days of testimony and legal wrangling, the Government tried to show that there had been a conspiracy by the defendants and the Ku Klux Klan to seize and beat the men.

Defense Attorney Gleason fought back with the contention that the matter properly belonged in State courts as a matter of assault and battery and was not within the jurisdiction of the Federal Government.

The case began the night of April 2 in the tiny community of Hooker, Ga., in Northwest Georgia hills just 12 miles southeast of Chattanooga, Tenn.

There, the Government charged, the hooded and robed men went to burn a cross before the home of Mrs. Mamie Clay, colored.

Sheriff Denies Charge.

From the Clay home the seven men were driven to a hollow and then marched one by one, a klansman on each side, up a hill.

At the top the men were made to remove their trousers, and then were beaten with sticks, ropes and leather straps.

The Government tried to prove it was part of the plot that the men were arrested by the Dade officers.

Sheriff Lynch and his deputies testified they never saw the seven men who claimed they were flogged, but only two others they were holding for drunkenness. He said these two were the ones seized from him by the mob of 50 to 75 night riders.

Mr. Gleason argued that the presence of the Dade officers at Hooker as the Klan arrived was just an "unfortunate" coincidence.

THE GEORGIA KLAN CASE

A mistrial was declared in the conspiracy case at Rome, Ga., after the jury remained deadlocked, 7 to 5, in favor of conviction of 10 white men charged with the Ku Klux Klan flogging of seven Negroes. In view of the evidence, a conviction was warranted. The verdict, while unsatisfactory in this respect, offers encouragement to responsible southerners who insist on decency and justice in race relations.

In the past it might have been surprising that the majority of a jury of white men in a southern state should vote to convict their fellow whites for abusing Negro citizens. Even the fact that the violence was apparently inspired by a desire to intimidate one of the few Negro land owners in an overwhelmingly white county into surrender of her land might not have outraged a member of a typical jury a generation or two ago.

The vote of the jury suggests that the Klan and its methods are in disfavor with people in the region where this organization once was strongest. It also shows that lawless acts are held by a growing number of ordinary southerners to be equally reprehensible whether directed against white or Negro citizens.

It may have seemed to some of the jurors at Rome that the intrusion of the federal government into a local case was an intolerable interference with state's rights, and this may have been a factor with those who refused to convict. It would have been interesting to see the verdict if the case had been tried in the state courts. At any rate, the preponderant vote of the jurors for conviction may be taken as a sign of a better day in race relations.

Mass Civil Rights Case Now Nearing Jury

ROME, GA., Dec. 14 — (AP) — Conspiracy, communism, and the Ku Klux Klan got all mixed up in the closing arguments of the mass civil rights trial here today.

All that remains before the jury receives the fate of ten Dade County defendants tomorrow is an hour and a half charge on the law by Federal District Judge Frank A. Hooper.

On trial are Sheriff John W. Lynch, three of his deputies and six private citizens.

Each is accused by the government of conspiring to have seven Negroes placed under false arrest the night of April 2, and then surrendered to a KKK mob for beating.

The government charges the arrest and seizure of the Negroes took place at Hooker, Ga., at the home of Mrs. Mamie Clay, a Negro, and that the plot was laid the night before at a meeting of the Klan in Trenton, Ga.

The trial was wrapped up this afternoon with attorney Frank Gleason of Rossville, former Army war crimes prosecutor in Europe, appearing for the defense and U. S. District Attorney J. Ellis Mundy for the government.

Mundy scoffed at the "great coincidence" **that the sheriff and his deputies, one of whom helped build and deliver the cross, appeared before the Clay home as the Klan arrived.**

Gleason insisted that it was just an "unfortunate arrival," entirely unplanned.

Rights Trial Jury Remains Deadlocked

10 White Men Wait Verdict As 12 Study Volumes Of Testimony

ROME, GA., Dec. 16—(AP)—Ten white men waited hour after hour today to learn the verdict of a federal jury trying them for the flogging of seven Negroes.

After 12 hours of deliberations last night and today, the jury still was unable to report a decision.

Sheriff John W. Lynch, three of his deputies and six private citizens were charged on the first of a two-count indictment with conspiracy to have the Negroes arrested "without cause" and then turned over to a Ku Klux Klan mob for beating.

The second count accused the 10 men of actually carrying out the terms of the alleged conspiracy.

Jury Studies Evidence

The jury of north Georgia farmers and business men pondered almost 900,000 words of testimony and a mass of documentary evidence behind guarded doors.

The defendants wandered aimlessly through the corridors. Most of them had expected a quick verdict of acquittal.

Conviction on count one carries a maximum penalty of $5,000 in fines and 10 years in prison, the second carried a $1,000 fine and one year.

The trial was the first in history in which the government invoked the civil rights statutes against law enforcement officers and alleged hoodlums simultaneously.

Conspiracy Questioned

The government's whole case hinged on its attempt to show that there had been a conspiracy by the defendants and the Ku Klux Klan to seize and beat the Negroes.

Defense Attorney Frank M. Gleason of Rossville, Ga., argued throughout that the case properly belonged in state courts—not federal—as a matter of assault and battery.

Since Nov. 21, the jury heard conflicting testimony about what happened and who did it. This much was not disputed: The Klan went riding the night of April 2 and carried masked terror to the little community of Hooker, 12 miles southwest of Chattanooga, Tenn.

3 Klansmen Fired

Three klansmen fired a cross opposite the home of Mrs. Mamie Clay, a Negro. Minutes later hooded and masked mobsters converged in the Clay yard and ordered seven Negroes, most of them from Chattanooga, to leave.

The frightened Negroes filed out, were seized by Klansmen, shoved into a station wagon and whisked off to a nearby hollow. Then, one by one, the Negroes were led up a hill, ordered to remove their trousers and whipped with sticks, ropes and leather belts.

The area of dispute lay in whether there was conspiracy and who seized the flog victims. The defense contended the klansmen were imported from other communities under command of Kleagle (organizer) Walter Arp, of Rossville. And Gleason insisted there was no evidence of conspiracy.

Flogging Jury Argues Vainly for 18 Hours

Rome, Ga., Dec. 16 [Special]—The all-white jury debating the case of 10 white men accused of conspiracy in the flogging of seven Negroes was deadlocked today after some 18 hours of deliberation.

Late this afternoon Federal Judge Frank A. Hooper called the jury into the courtroom and asked whether it had arrived at any verdict, or whether the court could aid them in matters of law.

To both questions, the answer given by Foreman Hugh D. Casey was no.

No Progress Made

"We have not made any progress since the first vote yesterday," Casey said.

Judge Hooper sent the jurors back to their deliberations, and canceled a trip to Atlanta he had planned for today. Observers took this to indicate he will not concede a hung jury this week-end.

Meanwhile, the defendants, including the sherif of Dade county and three of his deputies, paced nervously about the courtroom and along the corridors outside, their expectations of a rapid acquittal long since blasted.

The principal defendant, Sherif John W. Lynch, showed the nervous strain of waiting for a verdict by smoking innumerable cigarets. Various defendants occassionally dropped into other courtrooms to listen to other cases being tried.

Negroes Flogged in April

The flogging incident that precipitated the trial occurred last April 2 at Hooker, Ga., where the seven Negro victims were arrested and then surrendered to a robed, hooded Ku Klux Klan mob that beat them.

The federal government accuses Lynch, the three deputies, and six private citizens of conspiring with the klan to seize the Negroes and have them flogged ,thereby depriving them of their constitutional rights. Conviction on both counts of the indictment could mean a maximum penalty of 11 years imprisonment and fines of $6,000 for each defendant.

Jury Weighs Fate of Ten in Klan Flogging

BULLETIN

Rome, Ga., Dec. 15 (Special)—Stanley D. White, 23, kligrath of the Ku Klux Klan at Rossville, Ga., was cited for contempt by a federal grand jury here for his refusal to answer questions concerning the Dade county flogging incident that led to the present trial of 10 persons for conspiracy to deprive eight Negroes of their civil rights, it was learned today.

Rome, Ga., Dec. 15 [Special]—While a federal court jury today began debating the case of 10 Georgians, including a sherif and three deputies accused of violating the civil rights of eight Negroes who were flogged by a hooded mob, courtroom speculation centered on new indictments returned yesterday by the federal grand jury.

There appeared to be little doubt that the sealed indictments are connected with the same case that has been on trial here for nearly four weeks.

Federal Judge Frank A. Hooper, presiding, ordered the new charges kept under seal until the trial ends.

Perjury Indicated

It was recalled that defense attorneys have contended that, if any one is tried, other members of the mob of 50 to 75 that participated in the flogging last April 2 should be accused as well as the 10 now awaiting the jury's decision. Further, the conflicting testimony given by defense and prosecution witnesses indicates that some one may have committed perjury.

The 10 defendants include Sherif John W. Lynch of Dade county, Ga., his three deputies, Stokes McCauley, William Hartline and John Bleckley, and six private citizens. Charges against two others have been dismissed since the trial began Nov. 21.

The 10 are accused of conspiring to defraud the eight Negroes, one a woman, of their constitutional rights. The Negroes were arrested at Hooker, Ga., and then surrendered to a Ku Klux Klan mob and flogged.

Maximum Penalty 11 Years

The federal statutes under which the defendants are being prosecuted provide maximum penalties totaling 11 years in prison upon conviction.

The case went to the jury shortly before noon today, after Judge Hooper had spent 2½ hours giving his charge to the jury. The jurors had been sent to the jury room briefly in midmorning, then recalled for further explanation of 20 points of law.

The judge spoke at length on the necessity for the jurors to approach their decision with open minds, disregarding "evidence which might be prejudicial" solely because of the race issues involved, politics, or the conflicting testimony of witnesses.

Maternity Question Prompts Mistrial Motion In KKK Case

ROME, GA., Nov. 30 —(AP)— A question whether an unmarried woman was a mother prompted a motion for mistrial today in the case of seven flogged Negroes.

The motion by Defense Attorney Frank Gleason in the mass civil rights trial of 12 Dade County men was rejected by Federal Judge Frank A. Hooper.

The district court jurist said that in his 17 years as a judge he had never heard such a question asked under similar circumstances.

The day also saw the name of Georgia Court of Appeals Judge J. M. C. Townsend brought into the case by the defense.

The mistrial motion was offered by Gleason after John E. Wadley, Jr., had taken the stand as a witness.

Wadley testified that the night of April 2 he had witnessed a Klan demonstration before the home of Mamie Clay and had seen two of the defendants, deputies Stokes McCauley and William Hartline, present.

On trial are Sheriff John W. Lynch, three of his deputies and eight private citizens.

They are accused of conspiring to have the seven Negroes arrested and turned over to a band of 50 to 75 men in Ku Klux Klan robes for whipping.

Gleason asked Wadley on cross-examination if Wadley had an unmarried sister. The witness replied he had.

Then Gleason fired the question:

"How many children does she have?"

The question was not answered. U. S. District Attorney J. Ellis Mundy was on his feet immediately, objecting that Gleason has been instructed time and again about such questions.

Judge Finds Klansman In Contempt

ROME — (INS) — An admitted Ku Klux Klansman who refused to furnish a Federal Grand Jury with information about the KKK was found guilty of contempt of court yesterday in Rome.

Stanley D. White, Kleigraph (secretary) of the Rossville Klavern, said yesterday that he had failed to co-operate with the Grand Jury investigating the hooded flogging of seven Negroes near Hooker last April 2 because he had "sworn allegiance" to the Klan not to reveal anything about it.

But Federal Judge Frank A. Hooper, who presided at the mass civil rights trial of 10 Georgians accused of participation in the floggings, said "There is no oath as strong as the oath to the court and to the United States."

However, the Judge did not sentence White. He said he would give the Klansman another chance to tell the Grand Jury what he knows when it reconvenes in January.

That will be about the same time the Government will reopen its case against Dade County, (Georgia) Sheriff John W. Lynch, three of his deputies and six private citizens. Their first trial on charges of conspiracy to violate the civil rights of the Negroes ended in a mistrial last Saturday.

Ga. Deputy Sheriff Admits Helping Build Klan Cross

ROME, Ga. (NNPA)— A Dade County deputy sheriff admitted to a jury in Federal District Court here, last Thursday, that he helped build a Ku Klux Klan cross, helped place it near the home of a colored family, and made no effort to arrest the Klansmen who flogged seven colored men.

The witness was Deputy Sheriff William Hartline, 55, who is on trial with Sheriff John W. Lynch, two other deputies, and six other men on violating the civil rights of the beaten men last April 2 near Trenton, Ga.

Hartline's testimony was regarded as crucial by both sides since the Government is proceeding under a Federal civil rights statute which makes it a criminal offense to conspire to harm citizens in the exercise of certain civil rights and to deprive citizens of their civil rights under color of State law.

Alibis Being Produced

Attorneys agree that unless it can be shown that a State officer was involved, a conviction could not be sustained.

Defense counsel charged, last Wednesday, that a large group of Klansmen from the Chattanooga, Tenn., area were responsible for the whipping of the seven colored men. This was advanced during the testimony of one of the defendants, Terrell T. Wheeler, 40, who admitted that he was the secretary, or Klygraff, of the Trenton Klavern.

Wheeler denied that he took part in the floggings of the seven men or in the cross burning at the home of Mrs. Mamie Clay, where the victims were seized by the hooded mob, carried to a "hollow" in a station wagon and beaten.

Baptist Minister Recants

Two other defendants repudiated portions of statements they made to agents of the FBI who questioned them about the floggings. They were Robert Keener, 28, a boilermaker, employed in Chattanooga, and Sam Peters, a missionary Baptist preacher and revival singer, who told the court he went to the cross burning, but only as a spectator.

An exalted cyclops of the Klan, last Tuesday, sought to convince a jury that another higher Ku Klux official was chiefly responsible for the flogging of seven colored men. The witness was Truman Purcell, one of the defendants, who said he was the exalted cyclops of the Trenton Klavern.

The real leader of this Klavern, Purcell said, was William Arp, who was a Kleagle, or organizer, for the Klan in North Georgia. According to Purcell, Arp was present at the cross-burning at the home of Mrs. Clay, and was in charge of the hooded mob.

Fugitive Witness Returned

Meanwhile in Birmingham, Ala., a "mystery" witness, who said he fled the State because he feared the Ku Klux Klan would kill him, described to a jury on Dec. 7, a Klan abduction and flogging for which 17 men have been indicted.

The witness is Ervin L. Key, who was brought from Houston, Texas, by the FBI so he could give testimony in the case. He had vanished after he testified before the grand jury which returned the indictments.

Key, who admitted that he was a klansman at the time of the floggings, identified A. Byrd Carridine, first defendant in the resumed trials, as the man who lashed Jack Alexander ten times with a heavy leather strap on May 19. One defendant was acquitted in October.

Sheriff Turns Back On Plea For Help, Vet Says

ROME, Ga. — (INS) — One of seven Negroes who were flogged by a band of hooded men last April testified Tuesday that Dade county (Ga.) Sheriff John W. Lynch turned his back on the witness' plea for protection.

Charles Roberts, a war veteran, of Hooker, Ga., added that all three of the Sheriff's Deputies were also present at the home of Mamie Clay on April 2 when he said he was threatened with hanging shortly before being taken out and whipped.

Sheriff Lynch, his three deputies and eight private citizens are on trial in Federal court in Rome on charges of violating the Negroes' Civil Rights. The twelve are accused of arresting the Negroes falsely and turning them over to a mob for beating.

Roberts, A. C. Hale, James Edward Hale, and Leroy Woods told the court Tuesday that they had been seized by "Gentlemen in robes." They said they were beaten with "sticks, rocks and leather straps."

Meanwhile, defense attorney Frank Gleason presented an affidavit obtained by the Georgia Bureau of Investigation in an effort to contradict the witnesses' testimony.

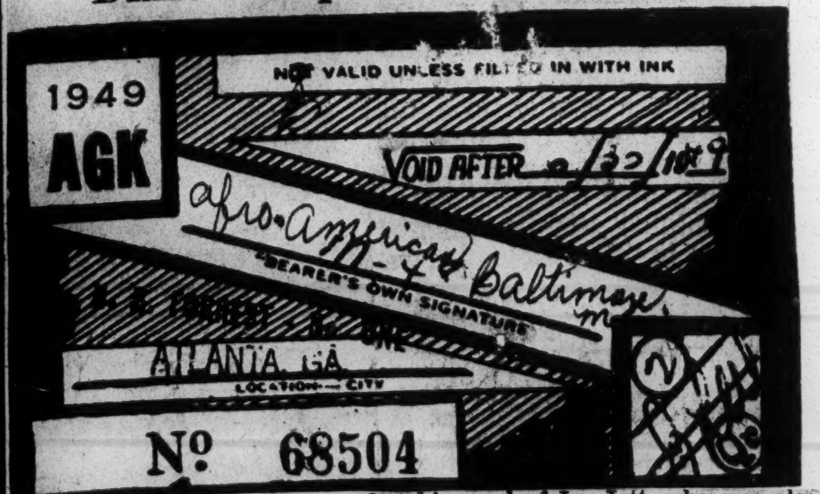
Gleason claimed the statements they gave on the witness stand and to the Federal Bureau of Investigations was contrary to what they had given to FBI agent James B. Hillin.

Bilbonic Plague Still Infects South

Afro-American Baltimore Sat. 6-4-49

The slogan of the American Bilbo Club, Dixie's new hate society, is: "American for Whites, Africa for Negroes, Jerusalem for Jews!" That's the club emblem shown above. The sailing ship on the right is a symbol of how slaves were brought to America. The modern steamer on the left symbolizes the goal of sending all colored folks back to Africa.

Dixie Passport to Prejudice



Afro-American Baltimore

This is the Ku Klux Klan membership card of Ira Jett, who was also formerly a member of the Columbians. It was on his farm in Cobb County, near Atlanta, Ga., that the American Bilbo Club was born during a hot-dog roast early this month. He is organizing white families in the neighborhood into "shooting clubs" to keep colored people out of the vicinity of his farm.

Named After Bilbo Now

Ha! 'Columbians' ... With New Look

Courier Pittsburgh, Pa.

ATLANTA, Ga.—Georgia's attorney general, Eugene Cook, last week was investigating reports that the Columbians are being reorganized in Atlanta under the new name, "American Bilbo Club." The charter for the Columbians, anti-Negro, anti-Jewish organizations, was cancelled about two years ago.

Information received by Cook is that the "American Bilbo Club" was organiezd "near Atlanta" May 6, and that Homer Loomis Jr., and Ira Jett, former Columbian officials, are in New York City trying to raise money to finance the new organization. Sat. 6-4-49

APPLICATION FILED

The Attorney General also has on file an application for charter membership in the "American Bilbo Club." The application is to be accompanied by a free-will offering. The signer agrees to obey the rules and regulations of the organizations without knowing what they are. He certifies that he is an American citizen, speaks the English language and believes in Christian culture. 6-4-49

According to the New York Post, Loomis and Jett are in New York seeking funds for the American Bilbo Club, replete with emblems and dedicated to the slogan: "America for Gentiles, Africa for Negroes and Jerusalem for Jews." The Post charges that Loomis and Jett attended the Atlanta "dog roast" which gave birth to the Bilbo Club and $200 persons paid $1 each for tickets to send them on their quest for funds. It further charges that Loomis and Jett were equipped with a sawed-off shotgun, two .38-caliber revolvers, two blackjacks and two switch-blade knives. 6-4-49

EVIDENCE TURNED IN

Evidence on the new organization was turned over to Fulton Solicitor General Paul Webb by James H. Sheldon, administrative chairman of the Anti-Nazi League. Loomis is under conviction and two 12-month sentences in Fulton County for activities in connection with the Columbians. Jett also was indicted, but never tried, for Columbian activities.

Tax Increase

The Constitution

Editor Constitution: The request by Gov. Talmadge for a $21,500,000 increase in taxes rocked me back on my heels. He says he needs the money for improvements in schools, roads, etc. There is no doubt about that in either of the two situations mentioned. But why should the people be taxed more heavily? Aren't the taxes high enough? I know you cannot have good government without paying for it; but is the increase really needed? The recent report by Atty. Gen. Cook showed that if the State collected all of the taxes levied there would be no immediate need of an increase. There is no doubt in my mind that there is a good deal of inefficiency in the Revenue Department of this State. I am not saying that it and the rest of the State Government are completely inefficient, but what is one to think when right after a report has come out saying that the State is not collecting half of its taxes already levied the Governor asks for such an increase? Atlanta, Ga.

Another question—How are we to be rid of such radical groups as the Ku Klux when our own highest State official supports their crackpot beliefs and principles? Sat. 7-23-49

The Negro has just as many rights as you or I, yet he is daily deprived of them, simply because his skin is black. We preach liberty and freedom, our own Constitution gives all men equal rights; yet it seems to be a tradition in the South to take away the rights of the minority group. I am a native Atlantan and Georgian, but I am completely ashamed of any type of society which allows and encourages such shameful practices as these.

RAYMOND ASHWORTH.
Atlanta Division University of Georgia.

Wins Gun Fight With Klan Mob

Opens Fire, Gang Flees In Battle

Birmingham, Ala.

DONALSONVILLE, Ga., July 26—(AP)—The mayor of a South Georgia town said today he beat off with gunfire a mob of Ku Klux Klansmen who tried to kidnap him.

Mayor C. L. Drake, of nearby Iron City, said "seven or eight automobiles loaded with uniformed and masked Klansmen" approached his house about 3 a.m. Sunday, July 17. Tue. 7-26-49

"I OPENED FIRE on them and they scattered in a hurry," he said. "When they shot back they were too far away to do any harm."

Judge King ruled that the Alabama Supreme Court had upheld the original decree by Judge Wheeler and that it was no longer under the jurisdiction of the Circuit Court.

The man who heads the Federated Ku Klux Klan in Alabama was plainly disappointed. His wife cried as her husband was led back to jail.

It was exactly five hours later when he took the step he had vowed he would never take by signing the conditional bond.

WHETHER MORRIS will be able to purge himself of contempt without producing the records is a matter of speculation. The state is expected, it will probably meet late this week.

In a one-day special session last Friday the Grand Jury returned four indictments against R. C. Lyons, Graysville.

The miner and part-time preacher was charged in three cases of flogging while masked and one case of first degree burglary. He was the 18th man indicted since the investigation began into acts of terror by hooded nightriders in the county.

Klan Merger Announced by Wizard Roper

Constitution Tue. 9-23-49

Merger of the South's two largest Ku Klux Klan groups was announced in Knoxville, Tenn., last night by Samuel W. Roper, of Atlanta, Imperial Wizard of The Association of Georgia Klans.

Roper said that the Georgia Klans are uniting with the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan organization recently formed in Montgomery, Ala., with Dr. Lycurgus Spinks as its head.

The Montgomery organization has now been closed. The Georgia and Alabama organizations will now operate under the name of the Associated Klans of America, Roper said.

Roper said he will be Imperial Wizard of the new organization and that Dr. Spinks will be Imperial Chaplain and Public Relations Counselor.

Roper said that all other Klan organizations in America are invited to join the newly-formed organization.

Rumors of the merger of the two organizations have been current for the past two weeks, but Roper had said they were "premature."

When Spinks' Klan organization was formed, he said it numbered 265,000 members in many states. The entire organization has joined the group now headed by Roper.

Roper said the membership of the Georgia organization "is a Klan secret."

Irresponsible Acts Cited As Excuse For Unmasking Directive

Atlanta, Ga. Journal Tue. 8-9-49

An edict from Imperial Wizard Samuel Green Monday ripped the masks from members of the "Invisible Empire" of the Association of Georgia Klans.

The Kingpin of the sheeted knights told International News Service that he issued the mask ban because of actions of "irresponsible persons who have used what appeared to be Klan robes and masks to commit unlawful acts."

This is the second time within a

decade that an imperial wizard has ordered the knights of the Ku Klux Klan to discard their hoods.

Green, who has heretofore used the title "Grand Dragon," said Monday that his new title of "Imperial Wizard" was conferred upon him Sunday in Atlanta at a meeting of the Imperial convocation.

Wizard James A. Colescott, a veternarian, banned the mask or visor in April, 1940.

Observers believed Green's order is a result of recent terroristic acts credited to the Klan by law enforcement officials.

Green's order was printed on gaudy red and black stationery with a black dragon engraved at the top.

The Imperial edict stated:

"After the signing of this edict, it shall be illegal and unlawful for any members of the Association of Georgia Klans (either male or female) to be or appear, upon any street, road or highway in these United States, wearing a mask or visor.

"Violations of this edict shall be punishable by banishment from the Klan."

The letter, which was stamped "Office of the Grand Dragon," was signed "Dr. Samuel Green, Imperial Wizard, Association of Georgia Klans."

Free Eight Men In Flogging Case

COLUMBUS, Ga.—A United States court jury last week acquitted eight Harris County white men on charges of violating the Civil Rights of a Shiloh, Ga., man. An all-white jury deliberated nearly three hours before returning the "not guilty" verdict.

Defense Atty. Ed Smith argued to the jurors that they must "go slow" toward a conviction of the white men, declaring that the deputy sheriffs were made to fear a Federal prosecution for arresting a "member of any minority group."

The men had been arrested and indicted for conspiring in the warrantless arrest and flogging of Capers Jarrett, 33.

Klan Chief Denies Cross Burning Near East Point

A statement denying the Ku Klux Klan had anything to do with the cross which Mrs. Eva Mae Burdette said was burned in front of her home on Mt. Olive Road near East Point early yesterday has been issued by Samuel W. Roper, the Klan's Imperial Wizard.

"The Klan," said Roper, "had absolutely nothing to do with that visit to Mrs. Burdette's home. The notes left on her door and signed KKK were not the work of the Klan."

Mrs. Burdette said when she saw the cross burning and attempted to call the police she found the telephone wire to her house had been cut. She said she found two notes, one warning her "to put her house in order" and another to a tenant to move and "quit interfering with Mrs. Burdette's affairs."

Brand Associated Klans of Georgia 'Subversive,' Attorney General Urged

AVC Head Poitns Out New Name for KKK

Shields Group From Loyalty Board Action

WASHINGTON — (NNPA) — The American Veterans Committee has urged Atty. Gen. Tom C. Clark to designate the "Associated Klans of Georgia" as a subversive organization, in a letter to the Attorney General, released for publication on Sunday.

If this action were taken, it would have the effect of bringing members of the Georgia Klan within the purview of President Truman's executive order prescribing procedures for the administration of the Government's loyalty program.

The AVC directed attention to the fact that Mr. Clark has classified the Ku Klux Klan as an organization which has adopted a policy of approving the commission of acts of violence to deny others their rights.

"Associated Klans" Not Hit

However, the "Associated Klans of Georgia," an alias for the Ku Klux Klan, has not been classified, the letter points out.

The AVC also wrote Secretary of the Treasury John Snyder, requesting that the Bureau of Internal Revenue take steps to reopen against the "Associated Klans of Georgia" the income tax case it dropped against the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan Inc., because that organization had presumably disbanded.

Name Called "Alias"

Excerpts from the letter to Attorney General Clark, signed by Gilbert A. Harrison, AVC national chairman, follow:

"Your office now lists the Ku Klux Klan as a subversive organization. There is no such organization. The organization now carrying out the principles generally associated with KKK'ism is the Associated Klans of Georgia headed by "Grand Dragon" Samuel Green ...

... colored high schools of North ...

"Thus today the government has no way of keeping out of its employ members of the Associated Klans of Georgia. "We therefore strongly urge you to place the Associated Klans of Georgia on your list of subversive organizations."

Green Still Holds Helm

Excerpts from the letter to Secretary of the Treasury Snyder, also signed by Mr. Harrison, follow:

"Some time ago, the Bureau of Internal Revenue dropped a case pending against the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, Inc., because that is an alias for Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, Inc., which was disbanded some time ago when the KKK was faced with an income tax case.

LRB Can't Touch Kluxers

"The Civil Service's Loyalty Review Board recently sent a directive to the loyalty boards of all Federal Government agencies directing them to 'confine their consideration and assessment of derogatory information to organizations on the Attorney General's list.' organization had presumaby disbanded.

"The membership of this organization immediately went into a new organization called the Associated Klans of Georgia. Samuel Green, formerly 'Grand Dragon' of the Knights is now 'Grand Dragon' of the Associated Klans.

"We ask that you take steps to see that the Bureau of Internal Revenue immediately reopens against the Associated Klans of Georgia the income tax case which it instituted against the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, Inc."

Masks Prohibited In Cedartown, Ga.

CEDARTOWN — Backed by the Junior Chamber of Commerce and several women's clubs, the City Commission passed here an ordinance prohibiting the wearing of a mask within the city limits.

City officials said that the use of city property has also been denied persons claiming to Alabama Klansmen. Polk County Sheriff John Redding said that he has also refused the use of county property to known klansmen.

KKK TRIAL TO CONTINUE

Loitering Charge Faced Men Unmasked By Mayor

SOPERTON, Ga., June 14.—(INS)—Charges of loitering are still pending Tuesday against three Ku Klux Klansmen who were unmasked by this town's mayor.

Charges of disorderly conduct were dismissed. Mayor Pro Tem James Waller, who acted as judge and jury in the case, said he will "decide what to do about the loitering charges after I get the men's testimony fro mthe court reporter."

Mayor Jim Peterson personally yanked the masks from Joe Greene, Malcolm Bready and John Lodge. Only Greene was tried, but decisions in his case would apply to the other two.

KKK Parade In Augusta

AUGUST, Georgia — (SNS) — Ku Klux Klansmen paraded through Augusta Friday night, some of them with dark glasses and false mustaches where masks used to be.

The Kluxsters, warned of the Augusta law that forbids them from hiding their faces, rode in some 200 autos through the downtown section before a smattering of onlookers and through the Negro section of town before more white than Negroes.

About 500 Klansmen took part in the festivities which included a 200-foot cross burning and speeches by KKK Kingspins Sam Roper of Atlanta, and Dr. Lycurgus Spinks, of Mississippi.

Spinks told the assemblage of chilly men and women that the Klan was patriotic and also gave advice to the lovelorn, tiraded against Communists, Federal Bureaucrats and some segments of the press which opposes the Klan.

Masking Banned By Cedartown

Constitution State News Service

CEDARTOWN — A crusade by women's clubs, the Junior Chamber of Commerce, and other civic leaders to ban the formation of a Ku Klux Klan unit here reached a climax late yesterday when the City Commission passed an ordinance prohibiting the wearing of masks in Cedartown.

Mark Cornelius, Chairman of the City Commission, said use of all city property had been denied persons claiming to be Alabama Klansmen who had requested the right to hold an organization meeting here tonight.

Polk County Sheriff John Redding declared that when the City Commission refused to furnish a meeting place he received a request to use county property. He said he also denied this request.

2nd Tax Lien Filed on Klan

$8,000 More Due; First $9,000 Paid

ATLANTA (NNPA)—The Federal Government on Sept. 19 filed in the Federal District Court here a second income tax lien against the Association of Georgia Klans, this time for $8,383.72.

This brought to $17,716.21 the amount of past-due income taxes which the Government claims the Klan has dodged.

The first assessment of $9,332,49, filed last August 23, already has been paid, Marion Allen, U.S. Collector of Internal Revenue, said.

Collectors Statement

The new assessment results from investigations made following the first assessment, and which are not yet complete. Mr. Allen declared:

"Our first jeopardy assessment of $9,332.49 was predicated upon figures and data previously obtained.

RETIRED DETECTIVE ANNOUNCES SELF CHOSEN

S. W. Roper Succeeds Dr. Green As Wizard of Georgia Klan Body

Atlanta, Ga. Constitution

By FRANK MAJORS

Samuel W. Roper, 54, retired Atlanta detective and former head of the Georgia Bureau of Investigation, was revealed yesterday as the new Imperial Wizard of the Association of Georgia Klans, Incorporated.

Jun. 8-28-49

Roper made the announcement himself while seated in the office of Atty. Sam Green, Jr., son of the former Imperial Wizard who died last week. The offices adjoin those of the late Dr. Green and are located in the Peters Building.

The new Wizard would not state when or where he was elevated to head the Klan group which claims Klaverns in 26 States.

"I took over as Imperial Wizard as of today," he said, "by order of the official family, a business organization which directs the Klan's activities."

Roper recalled he joined the Klan "about 1921" which coincides with the year he became a member of the Atlanta police force. He declared he "fell out" of the organization until Dr. Green revived it about four years ago.

As Imperial Wizard, Roper probably will receive the annual $10,000 salary which the former leader disclosed he was paid.

He had not decided whether he would immediately appoint a "Grand Dragon," a position made vacant when Dr. Green was named to the Imperial Wizard position.

He acknowledged on assuming office that the Federal Government has in its possession all records, including membership lists, of the Georgia Association of Klans. They are checking and auditing them in connection with a suit for over $9,000 which the Treasury claims the Klan owes in unpaid income taxes.

Roper was at one time Grand Cyclops of the Oakland City Klavern, and under Dr. Green held an office on the Imperial Staff.

He lives with his wife at 2251 First Ave., N. E., and has two children, a son and daughter. He retired on a pension from the Atlanta police force in January, 1949, after 25 years' service.

This service, he estimated, was spent about "half as a patrolman" and "half as a detective working on safe burglaries." He was suspended for 10 days in May, 1925, for conduct unbecoming an officer. Roper said the suspension "was for a fight or some frivolous thing."

In January, 1936, he was exonerated in a similar 15-day suspension in March, 1933, being charged with "illegal seizure of liquor." This he blamed on "city politics," pointing out the arrested men each got 12 months' sentence.

Roper was on leave of absence as a policeman from April, 1941, until January, 1943, when he headed the Georgia Bureau of Investigation under the late Gov. Eugene Talmadge.

It was while serving in this position that Roper was identified as the man Ellis Arnall yelled to "come out from behind that tree, Captain" during a political rally in the campaign when Arnall defeated Talmadge. Gov. Arnall accused the GBI head of following him around as a spy for Talmadge.

Until recently the new Imperial Wizard was transfer officer of the State Board of Corrections. He disclosed he resigned this job in order to devote full time to his new duties. He indicated he would later establish Imperial offices.

Presently Roper says he plans to carry out the expansion program as initiated by Dr. Greene, and that he intends to make the Klan "as large and as active as possible."

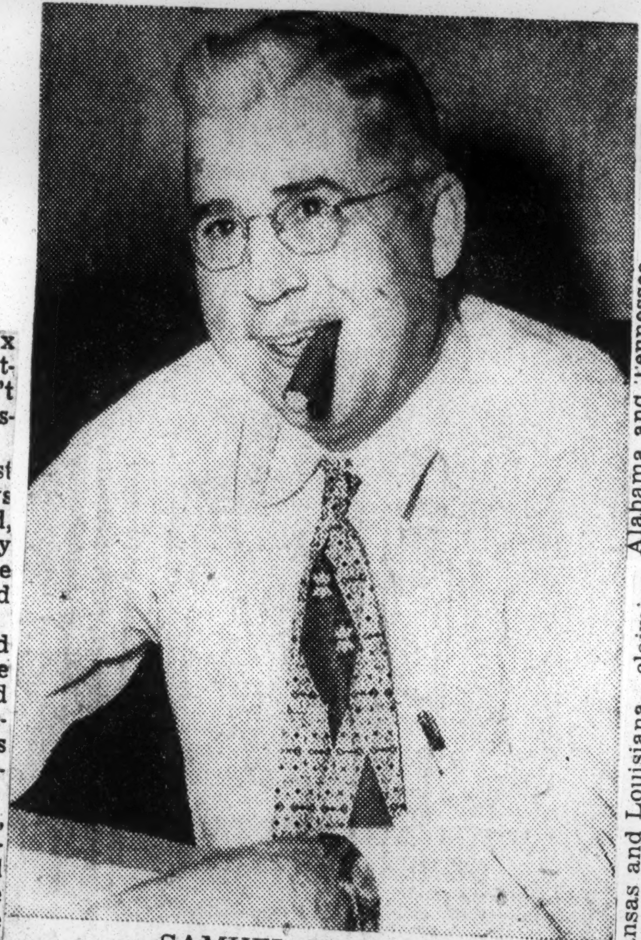
He shied away from questions as to his future intentions of joining with the recent merger of six Klans with headquarters at Montgomery, Ala., but said he didn't have any such intentions at present.

"The Klan is definitely against violence just as it was in the days of Dr. Green," Roper contended, "and it will continue to abide by the Imperial edict forbidding the wearing of visors on streets and highways."

Roper revealed he had served 23 months overseas during the World War I as a volunteer, and had moved to Atlanta on his return from military service. He was born in Jefferson County, Alabama.

Former Acting Gov. Thompson, potential candidate in next Summer's gubernatorial campaign, said the election of Roper was evidence that "the alignment between the visible and invisible governments in Georgia will be even closer in the future than they have been in the past."

"Apparently Roper, as a State employee and on the State payroll under Talmadge, had sufficient time and funds to line up enough State employees to assure his election as head of the Klan," Thompson commented.



SAMUEL W. ROPER
New Imperial Wizard of the Klan

SOUTH MAKING HEADWAY IN FIGHT AGAINST KLAN

New York Times 8-28-49

Georgia Association Gets New 'Wizard' But Support Seems to Be Waning

By GEORGE HATCHER

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

ATLANTA, Ga., Aug. 27—The South continues to make headway in its fight against the Ku Klux Klan. Public opinion against the hooded order and actions of community organizations and law-enforcement agencies are reaching unprecedented levels.

More than a score of towns and cities have adopted ordinances unmasking the Klan, and movements are under way in practically all the Southern states seeking legislation similar to the Alabama unmasking law adopted in June. Thirty persons are under indictment for outrages in Georgia and Alabama, the South's strongest citadels of Ku Kluxism; and the leader of the Alabama Klansmen remains in jail in Birmingham after his refusal five weeks ago to turn over Klan records to a Jefferson County (Birmingham) grand jury.

Samuel W. Roper, former head of the Georgia Bureau of Investigation and more recently employed by the State Board of Correction as a prison transfer officer, was named today as Imperial Wizard of the Association of Georgia Klans to succeed Dr. Samuel Green, who died last week of a heart attack. Mr. Roper is also formerly a captain in the Atlanta Police Department. He promptly announced that he would follow the policies of the late Dr. Green.

One serious problem that the Georgia Klan has to face is the Federal Government's filing this week of a $9,332 income tax lien against the organization. Observers point out that the question of how the Federal tax authorities obtained evidence of the Klan's tax liability would undoubtedly provide a source of worry for members and at the same time serve as a deterrent to those who might be interested in joining.

Weaker Than in 1920's

The strength of the Klan today is regarded as far from comparable to that of the 1920's, both in number and in community standing.

This week, a new union of Klansmen from six states—Alabama, Mississippi, Tennessee, Missouri, Arkansas and Louisiana—claiming a membership of 265,000, was formed. It is known as the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan of America.

Some observers viewed the Montgomery action of the Klan as an indication that a conflict was developing within Klan ranks for national leadership.

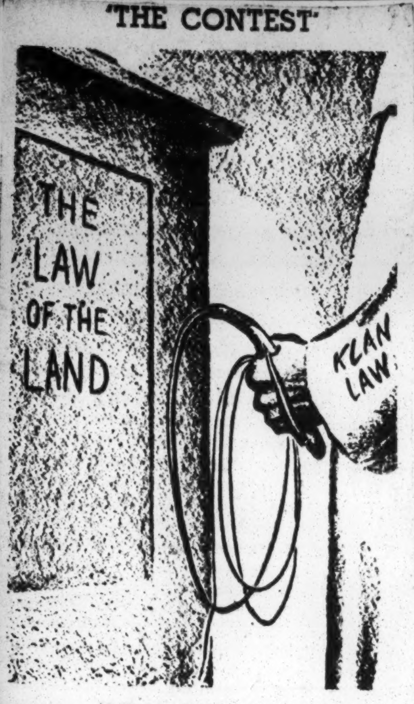
It was also speculated in some quarters that the Montgomery meeting involved an effort of the Klan to step up lagging interest in membership and to encourage present members in the face of recent setbacks.

Meanwhile, floggings, bombings and threats by Klansmen have virtually disappeared following indictments by grand juries in Georgia, Alabama and Tennessee.

The actions seemed to provide positive evidence that the people not only want to end Klan lawlessness and terrorism but will not condone gross dereliction of duty on the part of law-enforcement officers.

Those who are leading this section's battle against Ku Kluxism are heartened. But they are convinced that there must be a continuing war without quarter and unceasing prosecution if the evil is to be rooted out.

"THE CONTEST"



Little in The Nashville Tennessean

Georgia Klan Group Elects Ex-Policeman

Atlanta, Aug. 27 (AP).—Samuel W. Roper, 54, a former head of the Georgia Bureau of Investigation, announced today he has been elected imperial wizard of the Georgia Association of Klans.

He succeeds Dr. Samuel Green, who died recently.

Roper said he first joined the Klan in 1921 but "fell out" until the Association of Georgia Klans was formed after World War II by Green.

He said he had resigned recently as a transfer officer of the State Board of Corrections. He will devote his time to the duties of imperial wizard. Roper is a former Atlanta police captain.

"It is my desire and purpose to carry on the fight Dr. Green waged for so many years against un-American influences," he said.

Roper said the Georgia Klans would continue to remain separate from a new Klan organization formed in Montgomery, Ala., last week. Dr. Lycurgus Spinks was chosen to head the new organization. The Georgia association, revived by Dr. Green after World War II, is generally considered the successor to the original Klan.

Roper Probes Oustings

Sam W. Roper, new Imperial Wizard of the Ku Klux Klan, is "investigating" an order disbanding three "Klaverns," or Klan chapters, at Chattanooga, Tenn., Lafayette and Trenton.

Roper said yesterday he "could not now say when a decision would be forthcoming" on the order issued by his predecessor, the late Dr. Samuel Green, shortly before Dr. Green's recent death.

The Chattanooga and Trenton charters were revoked following violence by masked men in those areas. According to Dr. Green, the Lafayette Klavern was disbanded for staging a public parade without permission.

Roper insisted yesterday he "was not in a position to say what we will do about the disbanding orders." He declined to disclose any other official actions he has taken since assuming Dr. Green's mantle, but said the late Imperial Wizard's order banning wearing of masks in public will continue in force.

Roper said he would establish new Klan headquarters here "sometime within the next 10 days."

Green's Estate Owes $40,000 In Taxes

ATLANTA, Ga.—(INS)— Federal tax liens amounting to approximately $40,000 have been filed in Atlanta against the estate of the late Dr. Samuel Green, former imperial wizard of the Georgia Ku Klux Klan.

Mrs. Virginia Green was named individually as widow in one claim as owing the government $5,900.22 in back income taxes for 1948.

Other liens were brought against Mrs. Green as executrix of the estate for the following years and amounts: 1944, $3,797.64; 1945, $11,900.21; 1946, $10,851.82; and 1947, $7,629.19.

Sheriff, 11 Others Indicted in Dade County Floggings

ROME—(UP)—A Federal Grand Jury yesterday indicted 12 white men, including the Sheriff and three deputies of Dade County, in connection with the masked flogging of seven Negroes at Hooker.

Among the 70 witnesses called by the grand jury in its two-day investigation was Dr. Samuel Green, of Atlanta, Grand Dragon of the Ku Klux Klan. Green testified twice, once Tuesday and again yesterday.

The jury charged the 12 white men with "conspiring to injure, oppress and intimidate" the seven Negroes "by assaulting them."

The indictment specifically charged that Dade County Sheriff John W. Lynch and his three deputies "allowed the Negros to be punished without trial and without due process of law by releasing them to the mob."

The jury said in its indictment "that investigation showed that the gang which took the Negroes from the officers and flogged them were "disguised as Ku Klux Klansmen."

The alleged lashings occurred April 2. The seven Negroes charged that Lynch and his deputies came to the home of Mamie Clay, a Negro woman, and arrested them while they were attending a party.

The officers then turned them over to a mob of "50 to 75" masked men who were burning a cross in front of the Clay house, the Negroes said.

The masked men took them away and lashed each Negro separately, it was charged, then told them to "go away and forget about this."

The deputies were identified as N. Stokes McCauley, William H. Hartline and John Bleckley.

The other eight indicted men, all residents of Dade County, were Robert Lawrence Keener, Terrell T. Wheeler, Truman Purcell, Woodrow Daniel, Sam Peters, Middleton Durham, John Wilkins, and L. C. Spears.

The seven Negroes who claimed they were flogged were listed as A. C. Hale, James E. Hale, Richard Scott, Leroy Wood, Roland Davis, William West, and Charles Roberts.

U. S. District Judge Robert L. Russell, brother of Sen. Richard B. Russell, Democrat of Georgia, said the case will probably be tried in district court here the third week in November.

U. S. Attorney J. Ellis Munday of Atlanta and Special Assistant Allen E. Lockerman will prosecute the case.

Klans Organized In Only 4 States, Sam Roper Says

The head of Georgia's Ku Klux Klan revealed last night that organized KKK groups exist in only four States as he angrily denounced claims of a national consolidation of Klans.

Imperial Wizard Sam Roper, of the Association of Georgia Klans, disclosed the KKK strength when he was informed that other Klansmen had formed a national organization at Montgomery, Ala., Saturday.

Previously, KKK spokesmen in Georgia had boasted that the robed brotherhood was spread through most states in the Union.

But Roper, who complained he hadn't even heard of the weekend meeting in Montgomery, cut that estimate sharply.

He said there are only "very small" groups in South Carolina and Florida and a "fair-sized" group in Alabama.

Three men claimed in Montgomery establishment of an "Imperial Council" by representatives from 13 States.

One was William Hugh Morris of Birmingham, Ala., who spent 67 days in jail last Summer for failing to turn over Klan records to a Grand Jury. The others were Thomas L. Hamilton, Grand Dragon of the Association of Carolina Klans, and Bill Hendrix, national adjutant of the Southern Knights of the KKK in Florida.

Constitution Staff Photo—Ryan Sanders

KLAN LEADER'S FUNERAL—Here's a portion of the crowd and flowers at the funeral of Dr. Samuel Green, Imperial Wizard of the Ku Klux Klan, here. Note the floral cross, at right, with the letters "K. K. K."

Dr. Green Laid To Rest As Klan Predominates

The Ku Klux Klan's Imperial Wizard, Dr. Samuel Green, was buried here yesterday, with floral crosses over his grave and the officiating minister praying that the people of the world will grow to love one another.

The Klan saved its robed demonstration for a later meeting, but the Klan predominated at the funeral of this baby doctor who died of a heart attack Thursday. Many former patients and friends were in attendance.

Floral offerings came from men and women Klan members in Georgia and other States. The crowd that stood in a drizzling rain for the burial services at [illegible] Cemetery included many known Klansmen.

Funeral services at Spring Hill were simple. No mention was made of the Klan. The name of the deceased, himself, was not included in the simple services of scripture reading and prayer. Dr. Arthur Vann Gibson, Pastor of the Morningside Presbyterian Church, read scriptures centering on the theme of turning to God for strength, refuge, and comfort, and his prayers pleaded for a return of peace and love among the peoples of the world.

Only leading political figure recognized at the funeral was Bill Todd, candidate for Mayor, who said:

"I have friends in all walks of life and I pride myself on my loyalty to my friends."

Several Atlanta policemen not in uniform were observed at the services but no State political figures were recognized, although the Klan has boasted of its support of various candidates for public office.

One of the largest floral crosses came from the West Columbia Klavern 335 of the Klan. Flowers came from the "Boys of 51," from Winder, Ga., KKK, from the Paradise Klan Ladies No. 115, from Woman's KKKK (four Ks listed on the ribbon) No. 57, from the Lookout Mountain Klavern 317, from Klan 311 at Rossville, and others.

A known Klansman sought photographers at the funeral to get them to shoot pictures of four Negro women present. The women obviously were employees or past employees of the Green family, since they rode near the family car in the procession to the cemetery.

As the Imperial Wizard of the Georgia Association of Klans was buried, speculation over his successor increased.

A local Klan leader termed "laughable" a statement by William Hugh Morris, jailed Alabama Klan leader, that he (Morris) may replace Green as the top Klansman in the nation. Morris told newsmen he and Green had planned to merge the Georgia and Alabama Klan. Morris said there is speculation that he (Morris) will be named titular, if not actual, head of the nations Klans. Klans.

While the Green family hoped for a funeral paying tribute to a medical doctor and his charitable contributions, the occasion was one which attracted news-reel cameramen and a corps of newsmen and photographers to cover the last rites for a Klan leader.

He had been elevated to the Imperial Wizard post only 10 days ago.

Heir Apparent To Dr. Green Klan Secret

A successor to Imperial Wizard Dr. Samuel Green probably will be named at a meeting of the Grand Officers of the Ku Klux Klan here within the next few days.

That guarded information came last night from sources inside Atlanta Klaverns, following the sudden death of the Georgia Klan leader.

Informants said "the number two man" probably would get the appointment—but his identity apparently is a secret even to most Klansmen.

Grand officers are not expected to hold their conclave until Sunday or Monday, since it will take some time to notify men scattered over a number of states and bring them [illegible].

Dr. Green's successor probably will be referred to as the Grand Dragon, old title of the Atlanta obstetrician who was a driving force in the resurgent Klan. Green, a veteran Klansman with membership dating back to the turbulent period of Klan history around the first World War, slid almost automatically into the position of Grand Dragon when the movement was re-organized in 1944.

Constitution Staff Photo—Ryan Sanders

ROPER PRESENT — Sam Roper, a State prison inspector under Gov. Herman Talmadge, was among the persons attending the funeral of Klan Imperial Wizard Samuel Green.

Dr. Green's Will Bequeaths Estate To Wife, Children

The will of Dr. Samuel Green, late Ku Klux Klan Imperial Wizard, probated yesterday in the office of Judge Eugene Gunby, Fulton County Ordinary, directed the distribution of his estate among his wife and three children.

The will bequested all real estate to Mrs. Virginia Edenfield Green, the widow, and included Dr. Green's share of the estate of his deceased mother not distributed on August 29, 1947, when Dr. Green wrote his will.

His three children, Samuel, Jr., Virginia and Alfred Joseph Green, were each bequeathed a Series E bond which had been bought in July, 1947, with the children as joint beneficiaries.

The document directed that necessary proceeds from such other bonds as would be found in a safety deposit box go towards educating two of the children, Virginia and Alfred Joseph.

Mrs. Green was named as executrix without bond.

Dr. Green Dies; State Klan Chief

Suffers Heart Attack

Dr. Samuel Green, Imperial Wizard of the Ku Klux Klan, died at his home last night following a heart attack.

Constitution

Dr. Green, Atlanta obstetrician, was stricken while working in the yard at his home at 697 E. Morningside Dr., N. E. He was pronounced dead at 6:10 p. m. by Dr. Walter Daniel, a neighbor who was called to the Green home following the attack.

Frank Wilson, Superintendent of Grady Hospital, also a neighbor, ordered an ambulance rushed to Dr. Green's home but the physician died before it arrived.

Jan 8 1949

Members of the family said Dr. Green was supervising trimming of shrubbery in the yard when he slumped to the ground.

Atlanta, Ga.

The physician's secretary, Mrs. Katherine Rogers, said Dr. Green had complained of "pain in the chest for the past several days." Mrs. Rogers said Dr. Green had a cardiograph chart made several days ago but it "showed nothing wrong with the heart."

Dr. Green was promoted only last week to be Imperial Wizard of the Association of Georgia Klans. Before his elevation last Tuesday, he was known as the Grand Dragon.

A member of the Klan since 1918, Dr. Green first sprang into nation-wide prominence for his work in resurrecting the Klan during the post World War II period. It was understood, although members of the family refused to confirm it, that Dr. Green held an official post in the Klan several years before he "revived and reorganized" it in 1944.

Members of the family also refused to discuss any aspects of Dr. Green's activities in the Klan saying: "We would prefer that it not be mentioned that Dr. Green was a member of the Klan."

However, Dr. Green was the driving force behind the revitalized movement of the hooded order that followed the end of the war. Green took over the old Klan, plagued by Federal tax suits, changed the name to the Association of Georgia Klans and successfully avoided any entanglements with the Government.

Green reportedly held a commission on Gov. Herman Talmadge's staff. Visitors to his office said it was framed and displayed on the lobby wall. Talmadge would neither confirm nor deny that he had appointed the Klan ruler to his staff.

When he took charge of the order, he denied his group had anything to do with the old Klan, maintaining that it was nothing but a patriotic order, sworn to uphold the laws of State and Nation.

In this connection, Dr. Green's last official act as Imperial Wizard of the Klan was an order issued following a "Konklave" of Klan members in Atlanta last week, banning the wearing of masks in public by members of the hooded order. He said the action was taken to keep the Klan from being blamed for a wave of mob violence that was sweeping the South.

Members of Dr. Green's family could give no indication of who the next ruler of the Klan might be. Green was the only member of the mystic order who was unmasked at the public meetings. He wore bright green robes.

The Klan Wizard's death came only a week before he was scheduled to bring all Klan records into Fulton Superior Court for an injunction hearing.

Two young Atlanta lawyers obtained a subpoena duces tecum (bring with you) which sought to make public the entire membership of the Klan. The subpoena specifically commanded Dr. Green to appear with records showing purchases of arms and ammunition, account books showing contributions, dues collected, initiation fees received, and profits made by the organization in the past year.

The subpoena, signed by Judge Edgar Pomeroy and Clerk J. W. Simmons, also directed Dr. Green to bring into court the names and addresses of members who have perpetrated raids in the last month.

Dr. Green was scheduled to appear before Judge Pomeroy Aug. 26.

Dr. Green, who was 59, was born in Kirkwood, the son of the late Dr. and Mrs. A. F. Green. He was graduated from Emory at Oxford and practiced medicine in Atlanta for more than 35 years.

Green Death May Spur Quick Klan Unification

Death of Dr. Samuel Green, 59, Imperial Wizard of the Georgia Ku Klux Klan following a heart attack late Thursday, may stimulate a speedy nation-wide unification of the hooded and robed brethern in 28 States, it was learned yesterday.

Meanwhile, it was learned that a man residing in Atlanta's West End section is a likely choice to succeed Dr. Green.

This man is reported to occupy the position of Great Titan—the second in command of the Georgia Klan and a "level-headed" Klan official who always collaborated with Dr. Green on important Klan decisions.

Reports said that this man would most likely be made Grand Dragon instead of Imperial Wizard when high officials of the Klan meet here within the next few days.

Dr. Green was Grand Dragon of the Klan for several years before recently being elevated to the position of Imperial Wizard.

The Imperial Wizard of Georgia Klans, for whom funeral services will be held at 2:30 p. m. today at Spring Hill, was deep in plans for the unification of Klan forces, according to William Hugh Morris, Imperial Wizard of the Alabama KKK.

Morris, serving his thirty-fourth day in a Birmingham jail on an indefinite sentence for refusing to furnish membership lists for a Jefferson County Grand Jury, told the United Press he had conferred with Dr. Green on unification plans and he believed Green's death might "accelerate" the plans.

He said he would work with Dr. Green's successor toward joining forces.

But as relatives and friends of the Georgia Wizard, only recently elevated from Grand Dragon, planned his funeral, his successor continued to be a man of mystery.

Known "Knights of the Invisible Empire" said they did not know who he will be. No official lists of high-ranking officers were available since Atty. Gen. Eugene Cook reported that a list compiled during his investigation some years ago had been stolen from his files in 1947 and never recovered.

Dr. Green announced his plans for unification locally August 8, following his elevation to the post of Imperial Wizard. He said he expected to set up a realm and appoint a Grand Dragon in several Southern States.

Georgia and Alabama Klans, said by Morris to be "the two largest Klans in the nation," have no official connection at present and Dr. Green was quoted as saying that North Carolina and Tennessee were not "ready" for the establishment of a "realm" early in August when he was discussing expansion of the sheeted order.

The Klan has been under almost constant fire, accused of masked floggings and intimidations, but Green always denied that the order had any part in them.

His last official act as Imperial Wizard was the banning of hood-wearing by all Klansmen because, he said, other groups wearing Klan-like regalia were committing crimes and giving his order a bad name.

Green's own organization, the Association of Georgia Klans, was itself a revival of the nation-wide Klan which achieved great political power in the South and Midwest after World War I.

The national Klan disbanded in 1941 when it was faced with Federal income tax suits. James A. Colescott, now a Miami, Fla., veterinarian, was Grand Dragon at the time, but he said yesterday he has no connection with the order since he dissolved it eight years ago.

Green welded the Georgia Klan into a group which claimed 100,000 members active in 180 Georgia and Tennessee counties. Morris claims the Alabama Klan has 7,500 members in Jefferson (Birmingham) County alone.

Gov. Herman Talmadge yesterday sent a message of condolence to Green's widow, extending his "deepest and heartfelt sympathy." He said that "if I can be of any service, do not hesitate to call on me."

Green's downtown office wall sported a certificate naming him as a Lieutenant Colonel on Talmadge's staff, though Talmadge has never confirmed that he appointed him. Talmadge said recently, however, that neither he nor his late father, former Gov. Eugene Talmadge, had ever been Klansmen.

Dr. Arthur Vann Gibson will officiate at the funeral. Burial will be in West View Cemetery.

GREEN, KLAN CHIEF, DIES AT HIS HOME

Atlantan Was Head of Force Which Led New Movement of the Hooded Groups

ATLANTA, Aug. 18 (UP)—Dr. Samuel Green, imperial wizard of the Associated Klans of Georgia, died at his home tonight of a heart attack at the age of 59. He had been promoted from grand dragon to the wizard post at a "Konklave" two weeks ago.

He leaves his wife, two sons, Samuel, Jr., and Alfred J. Green, and a daughter, Virginia.

Dr. Green, the only member of the mystic order who was unmasked at the public meetings, wore bright green robes. Recently he had ordered the rest of the members to discard their masks while in public, saying the action was taken to keep the Klan from being blamed for a wave of mob violence that was sweeping the South.

At the recent "koklave" of Ku Klux Klansmen here, Dr. Green was named imperial wizard and was authorized to revoke the charters of three klaverns.

Disbanded Three Groups

The local groups at Chattanooga, Tenn., and Trenton and Lafayette, Ga., were ordered disbanded because Dr. Green said certain members had been "taking the law into their own hands."

He was the driving force behind the revitalized movement of the hooded order that followed World War II. The old Klan was plagued by Federal tax suits, but Dr. Green took over, changed the name to the Associated Klans of Georgia, and successfully avoided any entanglements with the Government.

A veteran klansman, he moved almost automatically into the position of grand dragon when the movement was reorganized in 1944. When Dr. Green took charge, he denied that his group had anything to do with the old klan, maintaining that it was nothing but a patriotic order, sworn to uphold the laws of state and nation.

Acknowledged Membership

Dr. Green was known in the South for a special reason. He was one of the few members of the hooded order who publicly acknowledged his membership. Even more, he admitted that he had been a Klansman since 1918.

In recent years, he had termed himself official spokesman for the Associated Klans of Georgia, and had come forward frequently with denials that his organization had participated in floggings or other acts of intimidation.

In the North, he was perhaps better known as the man who tried to keep Jackie Robinson, second baseman for the Brooklyn Dodgers, from playing in Georgia during this year's exhibition games after the Spring training season.

Dr. Green raised the issue whether Robinson, or any Negro, could legally appear with a white team on a Georgia diamond. The Brooklyn baseball team replied that if any regular player was barred, they would play no games in Georgia. State authorities indicated that they were inclined to side with the Dodgers.

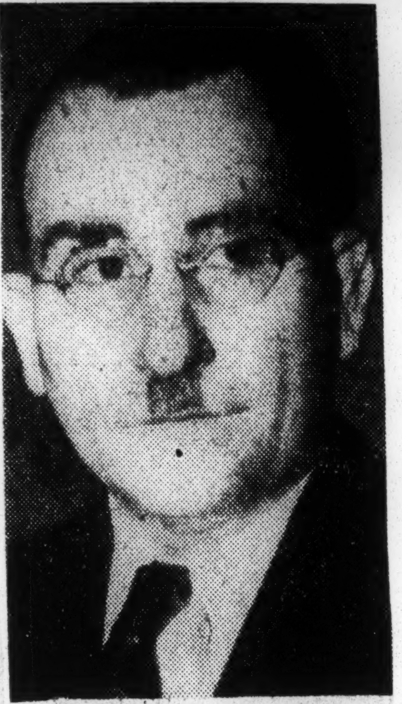
The upshot was that the Dodgers played at Ponce de Leon Field in Atlanta on April 8, defeating the Atlanta Crackers 6—3, before a crowd of more than 15,000 persons, including 5,000 Negroes. Robinson made two hits, and Roy Campanella, Dodger catcher to whom Dr. Green had also objected, made one. The fans were reported to have greeted the pair with no particular hostile or favorable demonstration.

Negroes Among His Patients

Dr. Green was born in Pennsylvania, but studied medicine at the Electic Medical College of Atlanta, from which he was graduated in 1912. His later practice in that city was as an obstetrician, and he insisted that he had both Negroes and whites, Protestants and non-Protestants among his patients.

He insisted also that the Associated Klans of Georgia was founded after the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, Inc., ceased to be active in 1944, and said that his group had no connection with any national Klan organization.

Despite this, he was several times called as a witness in investigations, which, officials said, showed that Klan members had participated in disorders. His organization was placed on the list of subversive groups prepared by the Attorney General of the United States.



DR. SAMUEL GREEN
Associated Press

In his most recent action, Dr. Green appeared as a witness in an investigation of floggings at Rome, Ga.

KLUXER FEUDING — Death of Dr. Samuel Green leaves the Ku Klux Klan literally a "house divided," not by two, but at least by four.

There are that many known varieties of sheeted groups now. They include the Alabama Federated Klan, the Georgia Association of Klans, the original Klan and a new outfit which claims to be national in scope.

Klan's 'Wizard Drops Dead In Atlanta

ATLANTA, Aug. 18—(AP)—Dr Samuel Green, Imperial Wizard of the Ku Klux Klan dropped dead at 6 p.m. today, his son reported.

The head of the resurgent Klan died while working in the yard at his home.

A member of the Klan since 1918, Dr. Green, a graduate of the Eclectic Medical College of Atlanta in 1912, first sprang into nationwide prominence in the post World War II period.

For his work in setting up the Association of Georgia Klans, which now claims 25,000 members, Dr. Green recently was given the title "Imperial Wizard." He formerly was known as the "Grand Dragon."

He had a standing denial of all charges and complaints that his membership engaged in violence or law-brerking. All members, he asserted, were sworn to uphold the constitution and the law.

He repeatedly said he would banish anyone violating the oath.

Dr. Green continued his medical practice along with his Klan leadership. His modestly-furnished office was decorated with pictures and emblems relating to his profession along with Klan insignia.

The Klan Loses A Leader

Dr. Samuel Green, imperial wizard of the Ku Klux Klan, is dead. His end came very suddenly and unexpectedly of a heart attack Thursday night. What the country is very naturally wondering about today is the effect that his death may have on the future of the Klan.

Dr. Green, according to his own statement, had been a member of the Klan more than three decades. There was a long period of quiescence between the Klan's apparent dissolution in the late '20s and its renascence in the late '40s. It is assumed that Dr. Green was in large part responsible for the reawakened interest in Klan affairs in the last two or three years. He seems to have been a hard worker.

It is difficult to understand how a professional man can hold the sort of prejudices which were harbored in the mind of Dr. Green. If we assume that education is an antidote for prejudice, it must have failed in this case. Dr. Green was a graduate of a small college in Georgia and of the Eclectic Medical College in Cincinnati, a school not now in existence.

So the Klan is temporarily without a leader. Dr. Green is presumed to have been in authority over all Klan organizations in the country. Some one else may now rise to assume the position left vacant. But in recent months the Klan has received a good many body blows. The loss of its leader may be another contribution to its decline.

Death Takes the Wizard

Take a good look at this face. It is one of the last photos taken of Dr. Samuel Green, imperial wizard of the Ku Klux Klan, who dropped dead at his Atlanta home last Thursday.

Look closely at the forehead with receding hairline and you will see one which closely resembles the forehead of Germany's late Goebbels.

The ears and lips are much like those of the late Theodore (Runt) Bilbo, whose rantings on the floor of the U.S. Senate made him one of the most hated men in America.

Hitler's mustache is plainly in evidence, though trimmed a bit and there are the piercing eyes of Rep. John Rankin. The facial characteristics of all four men were contained in the [redacted] features of the late and unlamented Klan leader.

It was Dr. Green who revived and reorganized the Klan during World War II and one of the things that probably hurt him most was the fact that Attorney General Tom Clark not so long ago listed that organization as subversive. He had been a member of the order since 1918.

One by one, our enemies are passing on. We have always said that a few funerals can do much to remove the barriers to our progress and to our enjoyment of the full rights of citizenship.

Take a good look at this face and then, thank God that we won't have to look at it again.

Doctor Samuel Green

The sudden death of Dr. Samuel Green, for many years the Grand Dragon of the Associations of Georgia Klans, ends one of the most reactionary careers on the southern scene today.

In an important sense, Dr. Green might be considered as having been an apostle of hate and passion. He was a militant crusader for White Supremacy. He opposed civil rights for Negroes and said that blood would flow like water in the streets before the South would submit to such a scheme. He almost prevented Atlantans and Georgians from witnessing the great Brooklyn Dodgers play here because the team had a Negro, Jackie Robinson, among its players.

A large part of his time was spent in denying instances of floggings and other brutalities, suspected of members of his outfit. Whether he was sincere in his advocacy of the goals set up for achievements by the Klan or whether he was interested in profits as some of the newspapers and columnists hinted about other Klan leaders, we are not in position to say. But we can state with reasonable certainty, that Dr. Green's preachments have been misunderstood by many of his followers and have resulted in hardships, if not bloodshed, for Negroes and other groups in the South.

What the Klan will do and how it will fare without him, we cannot predict. But it is our earnest hope that the Klan is at the end of its days, just as surely as Dr. Green has come to his end.

Died. Dr. Samuel Green, 59, scrawny, nervous, Himmler-mustached Imperial Wizard of the Ku Klux Klan;* of a heart ailment; in Atlanta. A small-time obstetrician who looked more like a frustrated shoe clerk than the ruler of an Invisible Empire, Green climbed the Klan ladder in comparative obscurity until he got the job of Grand Dragon. Postwar, he shuffled off Klan debts, whipped up membership, emerged as undisputed führer of racial and religious bigotry in the South.

Klan Ex-Aide In Indiana Found Dead

Courier Journal
Louisville, Kentucky

Robert Lyons, Once Powerful In G.O.P. Politics

Fri. 2-4-49

By the Associated Press.

Washington, Feb. 3.—Robert W. Lyons, once-powerful figure in Indiana Republican politics, was found dead today in his room at the Willard Hotel.

Lyons, who was 55, had registered at the hotel Tuesday.

A physician said death appeared due to natural causes, possibly a heart attack.

Lyons, who had offices here and at Indianapolis, was a tax attorney.

Nelson Beranian, Washington, a business associate, said that after making numerous phone calls and failing to get an answer he went to the room and found Lyons dead.

A Native of Bloomington.

Lyons was in pajamas. A book he apparently had been reading was found near the bed.

Surviving are his wife, who lives at St. Petersburg, Fla.; five sons, a daughter, and seven grandchildren.

Lyons was born at Bloomington, Ind., July 5, 1893, the son of Dr. and Mrs. Samuel R. Lyons. His parents moved to Richmond, Ind., when he was a youth. He attended Earlham College there and later the University of Chicago. Fri. 2-4-49

For many years Lyons was a potent, if mysterious figure in Hoosier Republican affairs.

His last prominence in Indiana came in the bitter 1948 preconvention battle over the party's gubernatorial nomination when his activity became a major issue.

Was Stephenson's Aide.

But four years earlier Lyons had been elected national committeeman, a post he held only a few days before resigning amid factional charges and countercharges.

Lyons reportedly was identified with the three presidential nomination campaigns of Governor Thomas E. Dewey of New York.

He first came into prominence in the Ku Klux Klan era of the 1920's, when he was secretary of D. C. Stephenson, now serving a life term in the Indiana Prison. Later Lyons was an official of the Indiana hooded organization.

'All Men Make Mistakes.'

The Klan connection later arose to plague him politically. Lyons did not deny the affiliation, and when he resigned as national committeeman June 14, 1944, he issued a statement which said in part:

"The simple truth is that all men make mistakes while at the same time they yearn for some activity that will satisfy the social conscience and the universal sense of justice that everywhere exists among their neighbors.

"When through error of judgment a man makes a mistake it has been my observation that he, more often than not, proceeds with an excess of zeal to correct his error.

"To deny him this right is to deny the validity of the universal Christian doctrine of the forgiveness of sins."

Lyons was elected to the national committee, succeeding E. M. Morris, South Ben financier. After he resigned Morris was reelected. Fri. 2-4-49

3

Baptists Warned Of KKK Bribes

Montgomery Advertiser
Fri 1-28-49

LOUISVILLE, KY., Jan. 27.—(AP)—Southern Baptist pastors today were asked to refuse "bribe money" offered by the Ku Klux Klan.

Montgomery Ala.

The plea was made by Dr. Hugh A. Brimm, executive secretary of the Social Service Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Taking note of a KKK visit and contribution to a Chattanooga church last Sunday, Dr. Brimm said "the incident . . . will probably be repeated many times now that the Klan has sunk to such a low level in the thinking of decent and respectable people.

"These 'contributions,'" Dr. Brimm said in a statement sent to editors of Southern Baptist publications in a 21-state area, "should be recognized for what they are, 'bribe money.' Bringing such bribes into the church ought to be openly resented and refused by Christian people."

Cross Burned On Ky. U. Campus

The Memphis World

LEXINGTON, Ky.—(ANP)— A seven-foot, rag wrapped wooden cross was discovered burning in front of the University of Kentucky administration building here early Friday morning. The cross, neatly constructed, was lashed to an old cannon.

Fri 7-15-49

Memphis Tenn

Doubt was expressed by police that the cross-burning was a Ku Klux Klan project, although a burned cross was found on the university's experimental farm earlier in the week.

Some sources, however, lay the cross-burning incidents to the fact that the university began admitting Negroes for the first time to its graduate schools this summer.

3 1949

KKK

LYCURGUS SPINKS-IMPERIAL EMPEROR-Knights of the Ku Klux Klan of America

Text Of Spinks' Speech

MONTGOMERY, Ala., Aug. 23—(AP)—Following is the text of the inaugural address of Lycurgus Spinks as imperial emperor of the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan of America:

The Knights of the Ku Klux Klan of America is a patriotic, fraternal, and educational institution. We are today launching an educational program to teach Americans Americanism.

We, the citizens of the invisible empire, believe that "all political power is vested in, and derived from, the people; all government of right originates with the people, is founded upon their will only, and is instituted solely for the good of the whole."

* * *

FUNDAMENTALLY, THERE are just two kinds of government: First, the kind of government that is controlled by the people; and second, the kind of government that controls the people.

Dictatorships are built by the establishment of bureaus, boards, commissions and the manipulation of them in a manner that gives the government control over the people.

There has grown up in this country a bureaucracy which has reached such proportions that it now dominates and controls the federal government.

THE BUREAUCRATS have exerted their subversive and destructive influence over the governors and Legislatures of our states to such an extent that it is almost impossible to find the line of demarcation between the free sovereign state governments and the federated federal government, yes, they have substituted bureaucracy for democracy.

This bureaucracy is the graveyard in which the mutilated and crucified bodies of American liberty and freedom is being buried.

My friends, every form of totalitarian government is a daylight robber of human rights, and a midnight thief of individual liberty.

* * *

THE 48 STATES which compromise the United States of America are free, independent and sovereign governments with all rights and authority reserved to them except the authority delegated to the federal government. The constitution defines the branches of that government and outlines the duties and limitations of each. The federal government is a confederated republic and is in fact the corporate agent of the 48 free governments and therefore has no authority to encroach upon the rights of any free state.

We stand for all the rights reserved to our states—the rights of their citizens guaranteed to them by our constitutional governments. We are against any movement that has for its end the abolition of democracy and the substitution therefor of any form of totalitarianism.

* * *

WE BELIEVE in the Constitution of the United States. We believe that if the fundamental principles of this document remain unimpaired the functions of government can be performed and the rights of all the citizens of the United States safeguarded. Believing as we do, that the constitution makes adequate provision for the justice and equity necessary for the government of a free people we, therefore, propose to preserve the political, economic and social interests of all the people by sponsoring constitutional and wholesome legislation and opposing such proposed legislation as may be designed to defeat the interest of the people as a whole.

* * *

WE BELIEVE in the "Bill of Rights," the name given to the first 10 amendments to the Constitution, which restrict the power of the federal government with respect to certain rights of the individual citizen and of the separate states. The "Bill of Rights" is an essential guarantee of "life, liberty and pursuit of happiness" to everyone; covering, as it does, the right to worship God according to the dictates of one's own conscience, and freedom of speech and press. The guarantee of the pursuit of happiness herein stated means that we may pursue happiness without being hampered by the government bureaucrats. We believe if the principles safeguarding these rights be impaired, then the rights guaranteed therein are in danger.

* * *

WE WILL STRIVE to maintain the principles of our Constitution and demand of all public officials their adherence to and defense of these documents, and to protect American homes and institutions from all subversive and destructive influences.

We are opposed to government ownership. We believe in the people owning the government instead of the government owning the people, for the abolition of private ownership completely destroys democracy.

We are against government competition with private business for it is unfair and unconstitutional. We believe in business in government, but not government in business.

WE BELIEVE in a government "of the people, for the people, and by the people!" It is the people from whom sovereignty derives. The people of each state give to their government what powers they please. They retain the rest. The people of all the states together give to the federal government such powers as they please, and retain the rest. If this fundamental right of the people is not maintained, then freedom will be lost and government will be ruthlessly administered by a dictator.

You can no more measure the depth of sorrow hidden in a dictatorship by the propaganda of its supporters than you can measure the depths of the surging ocean by the billows that play upon the bosom.

I appeal to all American citizens to rekindle in their hearts the spirit of 1776, which proclaimed the immortal declaration of independence and gave birth to American freedom.

Klan Drops Spinks, Says Atlanta Journal

ATLANTA, Dec. 10—(AP)—The Atlanta Journal said today that Dr. Lycurgus Spinks, former Mississippi preacher, has been eased out of the Ku Klux Klan.

Last summer Spinks claimed election as imperial emperor of the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan of America. He became chaplain and public relations counsel following merger of his group with the Association of Georgia Klans.

Cross Burns Near Towson School

Afro-American
Baltimore, Md.

Officials Put Blame on Bad 'Teen-Agers'

Date 9-17-49

BALTIMORE

A fiery cross, hate symbol of the Ku Klux Klan, blazed on top of a hill, Thursday night, near the new Carver High School at Sandy Bottom in Towson.

Construction of the Carver school had been vigorously opposed by white residents of the area since 1947 when school authorities first selected the site. Despite this opposition, the school was erected and was put into use Thursday.

A county police radio squad found the cross still burning brightly when they reached the scene around midnight and extinguished it.

Teen-Agers Blamed

Capt. R. A. Merson of the Baltimore County police force, expressed a belief that the cross-burning was the "work of publicity-seeking teen-agers, rather than of the Klan."

Some residents of the area, however, were not so sure. Many believed the cross-burning was a last effort of disgruntled whites who opposed construction of the school at Sandy Bottom. They supported their arguments by the fact that the cross appeared the first day the school was put into use. (The county school fall term began Thursday.)

Edward Stapleton, superintendent of county schools, said that after investigation he thought the cross-burning was done by adults. The cross was completely consumed by the flames, police said.

dad area.

According to the suit, children were banned from the playground by a Recreation Department supervisor on racial grounds, although prior to the summer vacation colored and white children romped and played together on the same soil.

On Oct. 13, Paul Robeson is slated to head a "Freedom Day Rally" at Turner's Arena. Already, the AFRO has heard that a local veterans organization is planning a District version of the Peekskill riot.

Minority Group Getting Fed Up

Afro-American

White Bigots' Acts Grist for Communists

9-24-49

CROSS BURNING HIT

Baltimore

Police Apathy Toward Attacks on Race Irks

WASHINGTON

Are the actions of white bigots in the nation's capital softening up the minority group for Communist infiltration?

Last week, Ralph Sneed, who moved into a home in the 1700 block of M St., S.E., was awakened from his slumber by the glow of flames from a four-foot blazing cross and the shattering of his window panes.

Police shrugged the attack off as the work of juvenile pranksters.

Explanation Patently False

Citizens are wondering about this police explanation. Since when, they challenge, are youngsters sufficiently schooled in Ku Klux Klan tactics to obtain the knowledge of how to construct crude crosses wrapped with burlap sacks soaked in oil?

The vandals' attack on the home of Sneed, who is residing in what was previously an all-white community, is similar to the periodic assaults which have been made on the home of Odis Blasingame since April 1.

In the Blasingame case, police officials say that they have put forth every effort to defend his home against the ravages of his discontented neighbors.

They declare that they have been unsuccessful in ferreting out the parties guilty of the attacks on the Blasingame home.

Swimming Incidents Cited

The furore over the swimming pools this summer, which found young hoodlums successful in their attempt to close down the swimming pools rather than allow them to operate on an interracial basis is another indication of how the intolerant minority controls the affairs of the District.

Let's look at the handicaps our policemen and our firemen have to endure under the District's Civil Service promotional system!

Although, it is generally agreed that colored policemen and firemen have better educational backgrounds than the whites, few, if any, receive promotions.

Score High in Examinations

Is it because they are not intelligent? you ask. No! Is the answer.

Our policemen and firemen turn in excellent grades on the written examinations. However, under the existing Civil Service regulations for District promotions, efficiency ratings account for 60% of the final eligibility marks.

And so, a pattern is definitely noted. If a colored policeman, for example, has a tendency to be bright, his superiors mark down his efficiency mark.

If on the other hand, a policeman is not considered particularly brilliant, he receives a fairly good efficiency mark.

Captain Overruled

Recently, a local fireman who had a high mark on the written portion of the fire department's promotional examination, was marked down in efficiency, even though the captain of his company, who knew his work best, rated him excellent.

His appeal before a stacked Appeals Board won for him a half a point raise in efficiency.

Last week, representatives from 25 civic organizations met to devise a way to force the District Commissioners to observe the "missing civil rights clause" in the District code.

Rights Clause "Investigated"

Since May 16, the Commissioners have placed the "investigation" of the legality of the "missing civil rights clause" into the hands of the Corporation Counsel's office. As yet, the matter is still being "investigated."

After A Fashion, The End

No fully satisfactory settlement of the deplorable Morris contempt case was conceivable. Although William Hugh Morris now has been released and the matter is presumably closed, certain aspects of the case leave much to be desired.

When the Spring Grand Jury first demanded a list of Klan members, Morris refused. That brought his commitment for contempt.

After the Supreme Court of Alabama had upheld the action of the Circuit Court and Morris said he was desirous of meeting the demands of the law in this respect, he said Klan records had been taken from his home. He has steadfastly maintained that he does not know where they are.

That obviously produced a lamentable situation.

The difficult question of whether Morris had purged himself of the contempt remained.

In contrast to his original attitude, he ardently professed his willingness to meet the law's demands so far as he was able. He made humble apology, Judge Wheeler said. At length he turned over a list of names in a new move for his release.

In court Tuesday he swore he had compiled as accurate a list as he knew how and that he did not know where the original list was. Judge Wheeler asked him whether he had made efforts to obtain the original list. He said he had asked heads and members of each klavern to continue the search. If any man brings the records to him, he said, he will turn them over to the court, whether or not he is under a contempt charge.

Judge Wheeler made it clear that he was convinced of Morris' sincerity. That was the basis for his action.

* * *

It would have been better, in our opinion, if Judge Wheeler, while firmly upholding the authority of the law, as he did, had not given what seemed to many undue indications of concern for Morris in his plight. The effect, it seems to us, was to tend to encourage mistaken ideas that Morris was being unjustifiably punished and deserved sympathy.

Even though he was to be released, renewed emphasis on the gravity of the offense was, in our opinion, called for.

Morris did defy the demands of the law. Even though he served many days in jail and apologized for his defiance, his offense against the court and Grand Jury remained a grave matter of record. The gravity of the offense still should be emphasized.

* * *

The action of the court in committing him for contempt impressively underscored the seriousness of Morris' action. It is to be hoped that the punishment ordered by the court and the forceful opinion of the Supreme Court upholding the sentence will continue to have strong effects in upholding the law. But the sad and distressing fact remains that the records which the Grand Jury sought have not yet been obtained. That was a defeat for the law, however it was brought about.

It will remain a defeat so long as those records continue beyond its reach. They are not secret records properly beyond the law's reach. They involve names to which the Grand Jury should have access. The Supreme Court's ruling on that point was clear and unanimous.

Suppose any organization could claim the right to keep its membership secret. What increased difficulties thus could be produced in combating crime.

* * *

Only a relatively few names have been turned over to the Grand Jury by Morris. Presumably the Summer Grand Jury was not disposed to oppose Morris' release. But who can be satisfied by the outcome of all this? There is some satisfaction, however, in having done with a depressing and disturbing case—having done with it, at least, after a fashion.

KKK Units Secede, Says Minister

TALLADEGA, ALA., Sept. 22—(AP)—The Rev. Alvin Horn said today four Klaverns have seceded from the Federated Ku Klux Klan, Inc., headed by William Hugh Morris.

Horn, who had been active previously as a Klan organizer under Morris, named the seceding Klaverns as those at Talladega, Pell City, Chelsea and Odenville. All are in east central Alabama.

Horn said the four have formed an independent group and are "just marking time." He added that they have no definite plans for joining with any other Klan organiz[illegible].

He said he was speaking for the four Klaverns but not as the head of the splinter group.

"I want it understood," Horn told reporters, "that I, myself, am not a head of any Klavern or any group of Klaverns."

Morris, who was released last Tuesday after serving 67 days in a Birmingham jail under a contempt of court citation, said at Birmingham that he knew nothing of the movement.

Morris was jailed for refusing to give Klan records to a Jefferson County grand jury. He was released after he gave a list of 28 names to a new jury. He said he drew up the list from memory because the official roster was stolen from his home while he was in jail.

Klan Leader Tries Once More

Morris To Learn Today If He Can Leave Jefferson Jail

BIRMINGHAM, ALA., Sept. 19—(AP)—William Hugh Morris, in jail for more than two months for refusing to give Ku Klux Klan membership records to a grand jury, made another bid for freedom today.

Morris appeared as a witness before the Jefferson County grond jury. The portly, bald KK director was in the jury room 35 minutes.

Tuesday he will appear before a circuit judge, who will then decide whether Morris now has answered all the jury's questions to the best of his ability.

Morris first was sent to jail July 7 for contempt of court. Then he refused to disclose Klan members, telling reporters from his cell he would "see the jail rot down around me" before he would give the secret list.

After losing an appeal to the state supreme court, and after spending all the time since July 7 except for the period between July 23 and Aug. 2 in jail, Morris has changed his mind.

The Klan records were taken from Morris' home the night of July 20. Morris last week compiled a list from memory. It was turned over to the grand jury today.

The jury sought the Klan records in its investigation of a wave of violence by robed and hooded hoodlums. Eighteen men were indicted by the jury.

Leader Of Klan To Be Released This Afternoon

Wheeler Declares Hooded Leader Has Purged Himself

Klan Boss William Hugh Morris purged himself today in the eyes of the Circuit Court of a contempt citation on which he has been jailed for 66 days.

Morris was due to be released from County Jail this afternoon.

Judge Robert J. Wheeler said he was "impressed with Morris' sincerity."

"He has come into this court and apologized humbly," Judge Wheeler said. "He has told me that if he had it to do again he would produce the records. If, Morris is misrepresenting things to this court it is between him and his God. I am going to hold that he has purged himself."

Earlier, the state contended that Morris has made no real attempt to purge himself of contempt.

The state contended today that Klan Leader William Hugh Morris has made no real attempt to purge himself of contempt on which he has been jailed for 66 days.

Morris came before Circuit Judge Robert J. Wheeler at 2 p.m. today asking to be freed by the court.

Yesterday, Morris had gone before the Jefferson County Grand Jury with what he contended was a partial membership list of the Klan in Jefferson County.

Based upon this evidence and upon a sworn petition that he cannot produce other records, Morris had asked his freedom.

Taylor Hardin, assistant state attorney general, called Morris' efforts "worse than useless."

* * *

HARDIN, who heard Morris testify for 35 minutes before a closed Grand Jury session, said the Klan leader had not produced anything more than when he sought his freedom before.

The much discussed list produced by Morris was said by Atty. Gen. Albert A. Carmichael to have "contained some 10 names."

Carmichael said that six of the men named were persons who have already been jailed.

"This is mighty weak evidence on which Morris attempts to purge himself and in effect tells the Circuit Court to jump in the river," the attorney general contended.

This was the eighth time the 44-year-old roofing contractor has come before a court since July 7. It was on that day that Judge Wheeler committed him to jail for refusing to produce Klan membership lists for the Grand Jury.

Defense Attys. Roderick Beddow and G. Ernest Jones, Sr., argued that Morris has purged himself. They contend that the state has not attempted to show that Morris is able to produce the records originally sought.

THE GRAND JURY was not in the courtroom when the hearing began.

Beddow noted that they were "conspicuous by their absence and predicted that the Grand Jury members would state in court that they were satisfied with Morris' conduct before them. Solicitor Emmett Perry rose to say that the Grand Jury was in a room across the hall and could be brought in as required.

Judge Wheeler said he would not have the Grand Jury present since he already had a transcript of testimony taken before them yesterday.

The state contended that Morris has sought only to show that it is impossible for him to produce Klan records. They contended that this already been adjudged in the lower court and affirmed in the Supreme Court.

Hardin answered that "the burden is on Morris to convince this court that he cannot comply."

"He has failed once before a judge of this court. If he has anything different this time he has not produced it."

Morris Claims 'Double Cross' In Klan List Deal

Crowd Hears Him Speak At Warrior, 20 Men In Robes

The Klan membership list which William Hugh Morris prepared for the Grand Jury in an effort to gain his freedom was back in the limelight Saturday.

Morris, director of the Federated Ku Klux Klans, Inc., was questioned about the denials of four persons named by him as Klan members. The four denied being Klan members.

In reply, Morris said today: "I'd have absolutely no way of proving any of those men are members now." He said he meant the names of the 28 persons he listed as Klan members for the Grand Jury.

MORRIS ALSO claimed he was "double-crossed" when the Klan membership list he prepared was made public.

"I had been promised the names would be kept in strict confidence," he said.

Morris holds a strategy meeting

...with his high-level lieutenants in a drive to rally new members to his dwindling organization.

The meeting will be held at Fraternal Hall, 2213 Third Avenue, North, at 8 o'clock tonight.

Morris said he expected representatives "from about 50 klaverns in Alabama." He said all exalted cyclops of the Federated K. K. K. have been invited to attend, but that not all may be present "because it's Saturday."

Purpose of the meeting is to "lay plans for the future," Morris said.

THE PORTLY, balding Morris last night made his first public appearance since his release from County Jail last Tuesday.

He addressed a crowd estimated at more than 2,000 in City Park at Warrior.

While Morris was speaking, about 20 robed but unmasked men distributed Klan application lists to the crowd.

MORRIS, DURING his speech, referred to the theft of the Klan membership lists from his home as "an act of Providence."

"They (the records) weren't revealed because I wouldn't be a Judas Iscariot and go back on my Klan oath," he said.

Morris said he was referring to his refusal to reveal Klan records prior to the time the Supreme Court had upheld his citation for contempt of court.

He said he later gave the Grand Jury a list of 28 names drawn up from memory.

Two groups have broken away from Morris' Federated K. K. K. since the 44-year-old roofing contractor was committed to jail July 7 for refusing to give Klan records to the Grand Jury.

The jury later indicted 18 men for flogging and related charges.

Tribunal Postpones Decision On Morris' Plea For Freedom

Four Justices Unable To Agree, Full Group Will Meet Thursday

MONTGOMERY, Ala., July 11—Apparently unable to settle the matter themselves, four justices of the State Supreme Court postponed a decision today on whether a Ku Klux Klan leader should be released from jail in Birmingham where he is being held for contempt of court.

William Hugh Morris, state director of the Federated Ku Klux Klan, Inc., was sent to jail last Thursday after refusing to produce the list of Klan members for a Grand Jury investigating recent terrorist activities.

* * *

THE SUPREME COURT recessed shortly after 1 p.m. today and set another hearing for 10 a.m. Thursday before the entire tribunal.

Two members were not present today, but they will be asked to attend Thursday. Justices A. B. Foster and Robert T. Simpson were not present today.

Morris was put in Jefferson County Jail Thursday for direct contempt of court when he refused to furnish Klan records to the Grand Jury. He was ordered to jail by Judge Robert J. Wheeler.

Locke told the court in special session that the Klan official was innocent of any contempt in the first place and even if he had been guilty he could not be held in jail after the Grand Jury was discharged Saturday.

Locke went even further in questioning the right of the Grand Jury to ask for the Klan membership records and charged that phase of the investigation amounted to nothing but "a fishing expedition."

The state, through Assist. Atty. Gen Taylor Hardin and Si Garrett disagreed with all the defense objections and insisted Morris was guilty of contempt when he refused to produce the Klan records before Judge Robert J. Wheeler after having declined to give them to the Grand Jury.

AT ONE POINT Locke observed that the Klan is "fighting Communism and is the most effective way to fight Communism."

Justices of the court suggested, however, the attorney was getting into a question which had no bearing on the contempt case, and Locke said nothing further.

In discussing the K. K. K., the attorney said he wanted it made known that he is not a member, and never has been.

One of the defense arguments was Judge Wheeler had no right to hold Morris in contempt because the Klan official had not been charged with anything and was not properly in court where the judge could order him to answer the question.

The state contended, however, that the Circuit Court had every right to instruct Morris to produce the records after he had refused the Grand Jury demand.

Justices Thomas S. Lawson, Ed Livingston, Davis Stakely and J. B. Brown heard Locke make a plea to set aside the contempt ruling of Circuit Judge Robert J. Wheeler.

When Presiding Judge Brown asked if it hasn't been customary for years for a Grand Jury to take a witness into court when he refuses to answer questions, Locke said:

"No, sir. A Grand Jury must prefer charges. You cannot ever convict anybody of anything until charges have been preferred against him and he has had his day in court."

THE ATTORNEY insisted the only way under the circumstances that Morris could have been in contempt of court would have been by refusing to answer the Grand Jury's subpoena.

At one point Justice Lawson interrupted and read a recent decision from the U. S. Supreme Court on a case in Michigan which he said was almost identical with the Morris citation.

The high court held that a person cannot be cited for contempt of court without a chance to defend himself except in cases of misconduct that make it impossible for a court to proceed in an orderly manner.

But even if Morris was rightfully held in contempt, Locke contended, he could not be legally be held in jail after the Grand Jury was dismissed.

He said the discharge of the jury left the Klan official without any duly authorized body to present the Klan records to, even though another Grand Jury was being impaneled today to continue the investigation.

THE DEFENSE counsel pointed out that the new jury is entirely separate from the one which reported Saturday and "we cannot assume another jury will even take it up."

Locke argued there is no assurance that a new jury would ask Morris to produce the Klan records.

During the arguments, Justice Brown observed the question was simply this, "Who's the biggest, the court or the witness?"

Recalling that Morris admitted to Judge Wheeler that he had the Klan records but refused to make them public on the grounds they were secret, Justice Brown said, "If that's not direct contempt of court, I don't know what contempt could be."

SINCE THURSDAY the Klan leader and roofing contractor has been in and out of his cell—for further questioning by the Grand Jury.

Morris late Saturday refused to sign a conditional $500 bond which would have given him freedom, but would have required him to furnish the same evidence to the new Grand Jury organized today by Judge George Lewis Bailes.

Morris has been subpoenaed to appear before the new Grand Jury tomorrow. This Grand Jury was asked by the disbanded jurors to continue the investigation of masked violence in Jefferson County.

Attorney To Take Case To Alabama Supreme Court

Makes His Surprise Move As Soon As Jurors Discharged

BY WALLING KEITH AND DAN COBB
News Staff Writers

Hugh William Morris Saturday refused a conditional bond which would have freed him from County Jail but which would have required him to give Klan records to a new Grand Jury next week.

Hugh Locke, Morris' attorney, said Saturday night he would file an appeal before the Supreme Court of Alabama early Monday.

The short, balding roofing contractor and Ku Klux Klan official, was sentenced to jail Thursday by Judge Robert J. Wheeler when he

WILLIAM HUGH MORRIS

refused to produce Klan records for the Grand Jury.

* * *

Still Holds Out

MORRIS SATURDAY still was not in a mood to produce the Klan records.

Atty. Locke in a surprise move Saturday arose in Judge Wheeler's court the moment the Grand Jury had been dismissed.

He entered a plea for Judge Wheeler to set aside his citation for direct contempt of court growing out of the Klan leader's refusal to produce data on the Federated Ku Klux Klan, Inc., asked by the Grand Jury.

* * *

Surprise Move

THE SURPRISE MOVE caused a flurry of excitement in the court room which had just heard the jury report delivering 45 indictments after its mob investigation.

Atty. Gen. Albert Carmichael and Solicitor Emmett Perry immediately entered protests and offered heated arguments against freeing Morris.

Both argued Morris was entitled bond provided he would promise to deliver the Klan records to the new Grand Jury next week.

"You have now discharged the only body that could receive those records," Atty. Locke told the court. "Thus your present order citing Morris for contempt would give him a life sentence if the order remains."

Atty. Locke told the court that the contempt action against Morris was pressed by Mr. Carmichael.

Judge Wheeler replied:

"It was at the request of the Grand Jury. Mr. Carmichael was only the mouthpiece."

* * *

Presents Arguments

MORRIS' ATTORNEY argued that since the Grand Jury had been dismissed there was no official body to receive the evidence.

Solicitor Perry argued stoutly against the motion that Morris be freed by setting aside the contempt order Judge Wheeler handed down on Thursday.

"We have here, your honor," he said, "a man who has refused in open court certain records asked by the Grand Jury.

"Is this man to escape punishment for refusing to present this evidence to the Grand Jury."

Perry told the court "the only way he can purge himself is to state to this court that he will furnish the records asked.

"Why doesn't your honor call Morris into court now and ask him if he will furnish those records to the next Grand Jury?"

Judge George Lewis Bailes will call a new Grand Jury into session Monday.

It will be before this jury that Morris again will be asked to produce the records.

There was some argument among attorneys in the court Saturday as to whether the new jury will ask to see the records.

The 18 men who only a few minutes before had sat as a secret body and whose vote had called for the contempt citation by Judge Wheeler sat throughout the arguments over Morris' status.

Only Observers

THEY SAT, HOWEVER, as mere observers.

Judge Wheeler set Morris' bond at $500 and wrote out conditions for the bond—mainly that Morris would provide the evidence to next jury.

Judge Wheeler gave his oral decision on Atty. Locke's plea and asked members of the disbanded Grand Jury: "All of who who think I have ruled fairly please hold up your hand." All hands were held aloft.

Atty. Locke took a copy of the bond, copied by Mrs. Mabel Ellard, chief of the criminal division of Circuit Court, and conferred with Morris in his cell in the County Jail.

Locke then talked with E. E. Campbell, cyclops of the Robert E. Lee Klavern of the Ku Klux Klan; M. R. Arnott, treasurer of the Federated Ku Klux Klan, and the Rev. Alvin Horn of Talladega, a Klan organizer.

The klansmen then left.

Atty. Locke conferred with Judge Wheeler ocer wording of the judge's order by telephone, and later went to the judge's home.

Judge Wheeler said he had been asked by Mr. Locke to ocrrect the wording of his bench note. The judge said Atty. Locke's plea actually had been for dismissal of the contempt finding.

* * *

Chanae Not Vital

JUDGE WHEELER in writing out the bench order by hand had used the word "plea for bond." The change would not materially affect the court order in any way, the judge said.

Morris has been in and out of the jail several times as he was cayled back before the Grand Jury.

He could have spent Saturday night at home for the first time since he was jailed on Thursday if he had agreed to furnish the next Grand Jury with Klan records.

Solicitor Perry and Atty. Locke differed on how the bond order should be worded. Except for the first paragraph, the bond order followed Judge Wheeler's bench note.

Locke wanted struck out of the order the phrase that would require Morris to appear before the Grand Jury next week and give evidence as required by the Court on July 7 "in open court when the defendant was by the court adjudged in direct contempt of court."

The order:

THE STATE OF ALABAMA,
JEFFERSON COUNTY.

Know all men by these presents, that we, Hugh Morris principal, and

National Klan Group Formed

13-State Parley Here Attended By Morris; Was Jailed 67 Days

A small group of Ku Klux Klansmen met here yesterday and claimed to have formed a national organization.

Another attempt at national consolidation of Ku Kluxers, by Imperial Emperor Lycurgus Spinks, petered out here about three months ago.

Yesterday's group claimed representation from 13 states.

Among the leaders was William Hugh Morris who recently spent 67 days in a Birmingham jail for failing to produce Klan membership lists for a grand jury.

Morris and two others were elected "spokesmen" of the new organization, "The Ku Klux Klans."

The other spokesmen were Thomas L. Hamilton, "Grand Dragon of the Association of Carolina Klans;" and Bill Hendrix, "National Adjutant, Southern Knights of Ku Klux Klan," of Florida.

They issued a public statement saying: "This organization is formed for the purpose of launching a crusade for the return of this country back to the principles and ideals and faiths of our forefathers."

An "Imperial Council," they said, would be the governing body of the organization.

The Kluxers also agreed to "lift the mask on all parades," and otherwise comply with all state and national laws.

"Our organization is bound together to fight communism, and all un-American activities," they said.

"We, as an organization, dedicate ourselves to fight all 'isms' in this country except pure Americanism."

Describing the organization as entirely "democratic," Morris and the two spokesmen admitted that they planned to meet again in January, somewhere in Florida, "under an orange tree."

14 States Listed At Klan Talk Here

AUGUSTA, GA., Dec. 19—(P)—The Georgia Klan is the only "splinter portion of the KKK left in the United States," Thomas L. Hamilton, grand dragon of the Association of Carolina Klans, told the Augusta Chronicle today.

He listed 14 states as being represented in the new national Ku Klux Klan, formed in Montgomery, Ala., Saturday and said representatives were present from North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas, Iowa, Arizona and Nebraska.

"We have joined with the pledge to fight communism and all other un-American 'isms'," Hamilton stated. "And we are not banded for any pecuniary gain."

3 1949

KKK(New Jersey)

[Refuse]d To Sell Home [T]o Any Race Met By KKK Threats

Journal & Guide, Norfolk, Va.

By NNPA News Service

EAST ORANGE, N. J. — A "fiery summons" scrawled on a piece of Ku Klux Klan stationery has prompted postal authorities to launch an investigation into warnings sent to an East Orange man who is advertising his house for sale to a member of any race. Sat. 3-26-49

The home owner, William Lowe, 59, of 234 South Burnet street, also has received three telephone warnings, two from men and one from a woman. Lowe said the callers used "extremely" abusive language in describing their reactions to his willingness to sell his 2½ story brick and frame dwelling to any one. The Journal & Guide

"At first I laughed at the calls, but now I'm so angry I won't sell this house to anyone but a Negro," he said. Norfolk Va.

VERBALLY ABUSED

Besides being verbally abused, Lowe said the callers threatened his family's safety. As a result, he said, his grandchild, William F. Rossy, 6, a pupil at nearby Elmwood School, was not sent out of the house last Tuesday. 3-26-49

Lowe's youngest son, Allen F., 21, said he took the KKK letter to East Orange police headquarters and showed it to Lieutenant Jones, who was at the desk. The younger Lowe said he told Jones the family needed police protection. Later in the afternoon, Detectives Bentley and Kemp visited the Lowe home, he said. Norfolk Va.

Lowe said Bentley and Kemp told him the police could do nothing about the matter. The threat letter at that time was in the hands of Lowe's attorney, Marco V. Faree, of Newark, Lowe said, and added that the detectives refused to investigate further. Sat. 3-26-49

MYSTERIOUS PHONE CALLS

Bentley, last Wednesday said Lowe had given the letter to a local newspaper, "and with a million fingerprints on it, it's no good to us." Bentley said the department is investigating the mysterious phone calls. Journal & Guide

Lowe said he also got in touch with the FBI, which referred him to Postmaster Clennon of East Orange. The letter was shown to Clennon, Lowe said.

The elder Lowe lived in Puerto Rico for 37 years before coming to East Orange five years ago. He worked there as a private electrical contractor and for the U. S. Army Engineers and the former Puerto Rican Reconstruction Administration. Troubled by asthma, he said, he returned to this country for his health. He now wants to sell the house and go back to "God's Country," his description of Puerto Rico.

3 1949

Klu Klux Klan (New York)

Westchester: New Home Of The KKK

new york age

The following statement was sent today to Governor Dewey by People's Artists, Inc.

"An implied threat of physical violence against Negroes who fight against discrimination and for civil rights and peace was received today by People's Artists, Inc., in a letter from the Ku Klux Klan of New York State.

"An implied threat of physical violence against Negroes who fight against discrimination and for civil rights and peace was received today by People's Artists, Inc., in a letter from the Ku Klux Klan of New York State.

The outspoken un-American hatred for and threats to the Negro people contained in the letter prove that the time to unmask the Klan in New York State is long overdue.

"We demand that you immediately appoint special investigators to supersede Westchester County officials to determine the role of the Ku Klux Klan in the recent fascist violence at Peekskill. In addition, we demand that you use your executive power to immediately make public the membership lists of the Ku Klux Klan of New York State now in your possession."

This is a copy of the letter:

Dear Sirs:

We want to thank you for the help you are giving us in securing new members for our order. Last week we received 722 applications from people in Westchester County. Of course at least 1-3 of these will be rejected as they do not have real Christian American motives in becoming members.

You see the people living in Westchester County do not care for negroes anyway and when it comes to Red Niggers that is the limit.

If you poor ignorant rats tried to pull off in Russia what you try here, you would die in 12 hours.

Keep up your rotten work, it is the best advertising we have had in 12 years.

"Non silba sed anthar"

s — James J. O'Toole

Kligraph. (Knights and Women of the Ku Klux Klan, Inc.

9-24-49

NAACP Asks Cross Probe

FREEPORT, L. I.— An immediate and thorough investigation of the recent cross burning on the property of Mr. and Mrs. Milton Christmas in Hempstead was requested this week of police authorities and the district attorney of Nassau County by the Freeport and Hempstead branches of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. Plans for action were made last week at a meeting attended by the executive committee of the branches and by Gloster B. Current, Constance Baker Motley and Herbert Hill of the national office of the NAACP.

An independent investigation by the NAACP revealed that little or no police action was taken after Mr. Christmas notified Nassau County police of the burning kerosene-soaked, six-by-three-foot cross. A police officer said the cross burning "may have been a retaliation" for the attempt on the part of several young Negro men to crash a party" given by a white group in the neighboring village of Roosevelt earlier in the evening. A Nassau County detective called by Mr. Christmas expressed the opinion that "a cross burning doesn't mean anything" and advised Mr. Christmas to "forget the whole thing."

James Reeves, who recently purchased a home in Roosevelt, reported that windows had been broken in his new home and the letters "KKK" scrawled on the sidewalk. He followed an automobile which stopped in front of his house several nights after the incident, and claims to have submitted the license number of this automobile to police.

Long Island Probes KKK Revival Plot

MINEOLA, N. Y.—(AP)—Nassau County authorities plan an inquiry into charges that 15 members of the Ku Klux Klan met in nearby Freeport Sunday night to plot a revival of hooded terrorism on Long Island.

Dist. Atty. Frank A. Gulotta said Tuesday he would investigate the charges, made Monday night at a gathering in Merrick by Henry Waldman, of Hempstead, County Commander of the Jewish War Veterans.

The Merrick meeting was called to protest threats against Mr. and Mrs. Charles Faber, of Freeport who have sold their home to a young Negro couple.

An arrow, bearing a note signed "K.K.K" and containing a denunciation of Negroes and Jews, was fired last week through a screen door of the Faber's home. The Fabers also reported receiving telephone threats.

Kluxers are active in "liberal" New York. In Freeport, Long Island, a white couple wishing to sell their home to Negroes has been threatened by notes, telephone calls and an arrow fired at their door. Twenty years ago there were more Klansmen in New York state than in Georgia! Apparently the movement has not died out.

The Klan in New York

Examiner

A United Press story in The Anniston Star this week reminds us that the Klan spirit, which is more troublesome than the Klan itself, is a national, not a Southern, problem.

The U.P. story tells of three Klan crosses burning in Utica, N. Y. A note, written in ink and found near the crosses, read—"Blacks Leave Utica—Ku Klux Klan."

Montgomery Ala

Somebody may be quick to say in New York, as in Alabama, that the Klan didn't really pull this stunt. So far as we can see, it really doesn't matter whether the Klan is guilty or not. The point is that the spirit of lawlessness is active in Utica as well as in Birmingham, where this week 14 people were indicted for Klan-like outrages.

Adv. 7-14-49

Klan spirit and Klan methods are useful anywhere a few people decide that, being more righteous than their fellows, they can rule as they please outside the American tradition of law, striking as they like at minorities, at labor, at the rich.

7-14-49

Fortunately for our civilization, public revulsion usually follows close upon such outbreaks though a World War was required to stamp out Klansman Adolph Hitler.

Long Island Couple Receives "KKK" Threat

FREEPORT, N. Y., Aug. 13—(AP)—A note signed "K. K. K." and telephone threats against a couple planning to sell their home to a Negro family were being investigated Saturday by detectives.

A major clue, they said, is the scribbled note. It had been attached to an arrow and fired into the house through a screen door.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Faber, residents of this Long Island town for 20 years, said they had received two threatening telephone calls after they made plans to sell their home to a Negro family.

8-13-49

Mrs. Faber said a caller told her: "We'll fix you."

Detectives declined to reveal contents of the note. However, Mrs. Faber said it contained a tirade against minorities.

The home is situated near the Bennington Park section of Freeport. The section is occupied mostly by Negroes.

3 1949

Klu Klux Klan (New York)

Cleric Joined 'Alien' Unit on Arrival From Germany

Afro
Baltimore, Md.
Sat. 2-5-49

Now Working on Soft Peace With Homeland; Kennedy Trying to Get Him Deported

By STETSON KENNEDY

W. NEW YORK, N.J.—A certain Ku Klux Klansman who entered this country illegally is currently engaged in propandizing for a soft peace with Germany, I can tell the immigration authorities.

He is Rev. John Lehnert, pastor of the West New York (N. J.) Baptist Church, who has admitted to me that he slipped into the U.S., without benefit of passport, and became a leader of the KKK in New Jersey. 7-2-49

Where I come from (the Deep South). only native-born white Protestant Gentiles can join the Klan. But it seems that in the northern neck of the Invisible Empire the Kluxers have an auxiliary for the foreign-born, called the "American Krusaders.'

The Rev. Mr. Lehnert tells me he was first a Krusader, but after a time was admitted to the Klan proper, in recognition of his loyal service to the ideals of Ku Kluxery.

Preacher of Hate

I first heard of the Rev. Lehnert's Klan record from one of his brethren, the Rev. Alton M. Young, longtime Grand Klaliff of the New Jersey Realm. Young frequently delivered "propagation" harangues in full KKK regalia from the Rev. Lehnert's pulpit, both men tell me.

I recently dropped in to see Rev. Lehnert because he has submitted to each U.S. Senator a 28 point questionnaire, trying to pin them down in support of a soft peace with Germany. Sen. James O. Eastland (Dixiecrat, Miss.) was the first to reply.

By approaching Lehnert as a "Brother Klansman," I learned plenty.

According to his own admission, he left Hungary (where he was born) and embarked from Hamburg, Germany, for the U.S. in 1903, without a passport of any kind.

"Just Signed, Came Ashore"

"I just signed my name in the register at Ellis Island and came ashore," he boasted.

The Non-Sectarian Anti-Nazi League, to whom I turned over this evidence, has asked the immigration authorities to send Lehnert back where he came from, if at all possible. 7-2-49

Since the immigration authorities seem to take considerable stock in the Attorney General's list of "subversive" organizations, I would remind them that the KKK is among those listed.

If more is needed, I would suggest further that the immigration department consult Judge John Drewen of N.J., who once dropped prosecution of Lehnert for selling fake marriage certificates, in order not to embarrass the ministry.

Cross Burnings Stir Klan Fears In Carolina City

Staff Correspondent

ROCKY MOUNT, N. C.—Is the Klan on the march again in eastern Carolina? This is the question which is on the lips of almost everyone met in Rocky Mount. Two reported cross-burnings during the past week are the reasons for this apprehension of the part of local residents.

Reports reaching local authorities indicate that crosses were burned in the Battle Park area, near Rocky Mount Mills on Monday night, and just off the premises of the colored swimming pool last night between 10:30 and 11:00. Screams of a nearby resident, who had seen the illuminating flames and recognized them for what they were, attracted the attention of some veterans, who were being dismissed from class. A station wagon occupied by three young white boys, was seen driving away from the scene by the veterans..

NUMBERS NOT AVAILABLE

Neither occupants nor license numbers were visible enough for recognition by members of the class. The Tuesday night's incident was reported to the police by R. D. Armstrong, manager of the pool. Investigation revealed, in both cases, very crudely-built crosses, covered with saturated burlap.

In the absence of any related activity preceding or immediately following the events of Monday and Tuesday, city officials have attributed the incidents to pranksters.

The colored pool is located in a completely Negro section entirely isolated from white neighborhoods. Constuction was begun last summer and completed a few months ago. In the light of these facts interested citizens are at a loss to see how the pool can be a point of friction.

Both colored and white residents told the Journal and Guide that they felt that "some juvenile crackpots wanted to make the headlines."

Klans Unite In Carolinas

AUGUSTA—(AP)— All klaverns of the Ku Klux Klan in North and South Carolina were united this week in an organization known as the Association of Carolina Klans, the Augusta Chronicle said yesterday.

The paper said announcement of the merger was made in an exclusive interview by reporter Esther Young with the new Grand Dragon, Thomas L. Hamilton, of Leesville, S. C.

Hamilton termed the unification "unique in Klan history" and the result of months of contact work he had done in the two Carolinas, the Chronicle said.

Klansmen present during the interview said they saw in the announcement a move for a nation-wide Klan. They said Hamilton has been mentioned as a possible leader of the united group.

Hamilton formerly was a grocer in Augusta. A native of Aiken, S. C., he moved to Augusta in 1930 and was active in civic and fraternal organizations until he moved to Leesville earlier this year. He said he had been a member of the Ku Klux Klan since 1926.

Charlotte Outlaws Mask Wearing

CHARLOTTE, N. C. — The City Council took the first step toward thwarting the newly-organized North Carolina Klan Thursday by outlawing the wearing of masks or hoods.

This was the first positive slap at the six-day old Ku Klux Klan which a week ago terrorized a Charleston family.

The council members voted unanimously to enact the law which exempts children under 17 years of age workers who need masks for protection on jobs and "persons wearing traditional holiday costumes."

Thomas L. Hamilton, of Leesville, S. C., self-styled Grand Dragon of the associated Carolina Klans, announced a week ago that the Klavern had been established in Charlotte. Hamilton said the Charleston Klavern would be the nucleus of the North Carolina Klan.

Soon after Hamilton's announcement a group of robed men visited a local family and left a warning note, which threatened two women members of the house.

KKK Terror Is Moving Northward

CHARLOTTE, N. C. — The Ku Klux Klan, figuring predominately in mass floggings trials in two states of the Deep South—Georgia and Alabama, during the past weeks, apparently pushed its mobilization campaign farther North last week when it was announced that the hooded order had recently formed a chapter here to serve as a nucleus of a two-state organization dedicated to the "maintaning of white supremacy."

At the same time, Charlotte Police Chief Frank L. Littlejohn, apparently accepted the challenge to law and order as implied in the Klan doctrine by labeling Klansmen "fertilizer for Communism" and promising that "if Klansmen here attempt to take the law in their own hands and to administer their so-called "law and order" we shall take steps to stop it. That's what the Police Department is paid to do, and I have a force here to do it."

CENTRAL KLAVERN

Thomas L. Hamilton, former groceryman of Augusta, Ga., said "several hundred prominent business men" quietly set up the central Klavern here. There was no public demonstration, he said, because it was the charter meeting.

"Each new member," Hamilton said, "must swear allegiance to the flag and must pledge his fullest support and cooperation in maintaining white supremacy."

Meantime, during the week both in Birmingham, Ala., and Rome Ga., where a total of 27 men are on trial on indictments growing out of hooded terrorism, the klan was pictured as an organization beyond the law which devised its own crude moral code and terrorized those who violated it.

IN BIRMINGHAM

In Birmingham where 17 defendants are on trial, a "mystery" witness who said he fled the state because he feared the Ku Klux Klan would kill him described to a jury a Klan abduction and flogging. He was identified as Ervin Leon Key, who had been brought here from Huston, Texzs by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, to testify in the trials. He admitted he was a Klansman at the time of the floggings.

Key vanished after he testified before the grand jury that returned the indictments.

IDENTIFIES LASHER

He identified A. Byrd Carradine, first defendant in the resumed trials, as the man who lashed Jack Alexander, Negro, ten times with a heavy leather strap May 19. The defense attacked Key's character and drew admissions from him that he served time in the Federal prison at El Reno, Okla.; Terra Haute, Ind., and Atlanta.

At Rome, Ga., where ten men are on trial for similar acts of terrorism, a Georgia deputy sheriff, admitted that he built crosses for the robed order's fiery rituals. This man was Deputy Sheriff William H. Hartline, one of the four indicted officers, who told the jury that he built two crosses for the Klan to use April 2, the night seven Negroes were flogged.

He said he built them at the request of William Arp, Klan organizer, but denied that he himself was a Klansman or had taken part in the raid near Kooker, Ga.

Three other officers and five private citizens are the other defendants in the Georgia trials.

KLAN IS 'FERTILIZER' FOR REDS, SAYS CHIEF

(International News Service)

Charlotte, N. C., Dec. 10—Police chief Frank N. Littlejohn has branded the Ku Klux Klan as "fertilizer for communism" after an announcement that a klavern had been organized in Charlotte.

The police chief declared:

"If an attempt is made by Klansmen to take the law into their own hands, and to administer their so-called law and order, we shall take steps to stop it."

CAROLINA KLAN FORMED

New York Times

Chapter Is Planned as Nucleus for 'Supremacy' Drive

CHARLOTTE, N. C., Dec. 9 (UP)—The self-styled Grand Dragon of the Associated Carolina Klans said today a Ku Klux Klan chapter was formed here last night to serve as nucleus of a two-state organization dedicated to "maintaining white supremacy."

Dec. 12-10-49

Thomas L. Hamilton, former Augusta (Ga.) grocer, said "several hundred prominent business men" quietly set up the central Klavern here. There was no public demonstration, he said, because it was the charter meeting.

"Each new member," Mr. Hamilton said, "must swear allegiance to the flag and must pledge his fullest support and cooperation in maintaining white supremacy."

Georgia Wing Of KKK Out Of Business In N. C.

Pittsburgh, Pa. Cal. 6-25-49

RALEIGH, N. C.—North Carolina threw the charter of the Ku Klux Klan down the hatch with the announcement that the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, which functioned in the State as a Georgia corporation, is no longer legally entitled to do business.

The KKK charter was suspended along with several hundred inactive foreign corporations by J. C. Bethune, Director of the North Carolina State Department of Revenue because of its failure to make certain reports.

Bethune said he had written Klan officials in Atlanta during January asking for certain information. Receiving no reply another letter was forwarded in February, advising that the charter would be revoked.

Klan Un-Chartered In North Carolina

Journal & Guide Norfolk, Va.

By NNPA News Service

RALEIGH, N. C. — The Knights of the Ku Klux Klan —a Georgia corporation—is no longer chartered to do business in North Carolina.

The North Carolina State Department of Revenue reported last week it had suspended the charter of the Klan, along with those of several hundred other inactive foreign corporations, because of the failure to make certain reports.

J. C. Bethune, director of the Revenue Department's assessments division, said he had written Klan offices in Atlanta last January asking for certain information. Receiving no reply, he said, he wrote again in February advising that the charter in North Carolina would be revoked.

Sat. 7-2-49

Cross Burned In Ohio Yard

ATHENS, Ohio—(AP)—A fiery cross was burned in front of the farm home of a Negro family of eight Monday night.

Sheriff George Bateman said a "carload" of men placed the cross in the yard and "screamed and yelled" as they touched off the kerosene-soaked torch.

The cross burning took place at the home of a Reynolds family about 25 miles northeast of Athens. He did not know the given names of any of the family members.

The mother and her seven children were alone, Bateman said, when the men arrived. They apparently did not wear hoods or robes, the sheriff said.

KKK. RAISES HEAD ON OHIO FARM

ATHENS, Ohio, Jan. 25—The Ku Klux Klan trying desperately to ferment the minds of whites in America, strode satanically out on a farm eight miles from here and set up a five-foot cross in front of the home of a Negro family. As the hooded monsters touched off the kerosene-soaked torch, they screamed and yelled like mad men, frightening the mother and her seven children, who were alone in the home at the time.

Athens Burning Cross Work Of KKK In Ohio

Special To The NEWS

The burning of a cross in front of the farm home of a Negro family at Athens, O., last week was viewed in New York by the Anti-Nazi League as substantiating its claim that the Ku Klux Klan is becoming increasingly active in Ohio.

The league said last December that reports of its agents operating in Ohio and within the Klan indicated that the Klan was growing in northern and western areas.

Prof. James H. Sheldon, administrative chairman of the league, said the Klan has been active in Ohio for a long time. And that his agents have reported that recently a delegation of Klansmen from Ohio journey to Atlanta where the Klan has its headquarters, and conferred with Grand Dragon Greene and other officials with regard to a "vigorous" organizing drive to be conducted in Akron, Springfield and Cleveland, and several cities along the banks of the Ohio River in Kentucky.

The grand dragon boasted of the strength of the Ohio organization in Atlanta meetings and noted that Ohio always sends a delegation to the Klan's "naturalization" ceremonies at which new Klansmen are initiated.

Sheldon said reports of his agents paricularly noted the large number of cars bearing Ohio license plates at the last "naturalization" meetings held by the Klan on Stone Mountain near Atlanta and at Macon, Ga.

The league official recalled that Athens County is in the vicinity of the Ohio valley, which gave birth to the notorious Black Legion gang of a few years ago. He also recalled that his own father, William H. Sheldon, a former prosecuting attorney for Washington County, the county adjoining Athens County, had been threatened by the Klan several years ago when he made an unsuccessful run for probate judge of that county.

Sheldon said Robert Sheakley of Akron has been listed as the Klan leader in Ohio and that a man named Adam Lerch is said to the grand dragon's top man for the Klan in Cleveland.

Cross Burning In Ohio Shows Klan Activities

NEW YORK—(NNPA)—The burning of a cross in front of the farm home of a colored family at Athens, Ohio, last week was seen here last Wednesday by the Anti-Nazi League, as substantiating its claim of last December that the Ku Klux Klan is becoming increasingly active in Ohio.

The league said last December that reports of its agents operating within the Klan indicated that the Klan was growing in northern and western areas.

Prof. James H. Sheldon, administrative chairman of the league, said the Klan has been active in Ohio for a long time and that his agents have reported that recently a delegation of Klansmen from Ohio journeyed to Atlanta where the Klan has its headquarters, and conferred with Grand Dragon Greene and other officials with regard to a "vigorous" organizing drive to be conducted in Akron and Cleveland, Ohio, and several cities along the banks of the Ohio River in Kentucky.

BOASTED OF STRENGTH

The grand dragon is reported to have boasted of the strength of the Ohio organization in Atlanta meetings and to have noted that Ohio always sends a delegation to the Klans "naturalization" ceremonies at which new Klansmen are initiated.

Sheldon said reports of his agents particularly noted the large number of cars bearing Ohio license plates at the last naturalization meetings held by the Klan on Stone Mountain near Atlanta and at Macon, Ga.

BLACK LEGION GANG

The league official recalled that Athens county is in the vicinity of the Ohio Valley, which gave birth to the notorious Black Legion gang of a few years ago. He also recalled that his own father, William H. Sheldon, a former prosecuting attorney for Washington county, the county adjoining Athens county, had been threatened by the Klan several years ago when he made an unsuccessful run for probate judge of that county.

Sheldon said Robert Sheakley of Akron has been listed as the Klan leader in Ohio and that a man named Adam Lerch is said to be the grand dragon's top man for the Klan in Cleveland.

3 1949

KKK (Pennsylvania)

Hoodlum Gang Fires Shots

Afro-American

Aping Ku Klux Klan, Unafraid Persons Say

POLICE OF NO HELP

Sat. 8-6-49

Residents Will Be on Guard in Future

Baltimore, Md.

PHILADELPHIA

Unable to rely on police, colored residents of the Fernwood section of Upper Darby were prepared this week to protect themselves against the return of hoodlums who aped the Ku Klux Klan by burning a cross on S. 4th St., Saturday night.

Firing wildly, a carload of the troublemakers roared through the area after a vain search for Oliver Bray, 27, who lives at 11 S. 4th St., and lit the nine-foot, wooden cross, which was propped against a freight car at the end of the street.

According to the residents of the section, the incident stemmed from some horseplay between colored and white men who were drinking together in the afternoon by the tracks of the Pennsylvania Railroad's Lansdowne Division, which runs through 4th St.

The white men didn't do well; and the gathering broke up after an argument.

Situation Not Understood

Robert McFall of 4631 Paschall Ave., Philadelphia, who was visiting Bray, said he was sitting on the porch when the carload of whites pulled up and a man identified as Joseph Murphy jumped out.

Murphy, an amputee with artificial arms, asked for Bray. Told Bray was not around, Murphy inquired at other homes including that of Philip Johnson, 31, who lives at 11 S. 4th St.

Johnson said he heard the shots as the car raced down the street and later saw the flames from the cross, but thought a house was afire.

Police Seem Nonchalant

Meanwhile, McFall called police, who, he said, appeared nonchalant about the whole thing when they finally arrived. The officers were given the name of Murphy and others in the car, but no arrests were made.

Contrary to reports, the cross burning was not caused by a new family breaking the racial pattern of the neighborhood.

At least 25 colored families live in the section and many have been there for over 50 years. There has never been any racial trouble before, residents said.

Fernwood, with its frame houses and unpaved streets, is located about a mile west of Philadelphia on the Baltimore Pike.

No Injuries Reported

The cross was burned on a box car in the siding of the Detroit Steel Company, a window frame concern at the end of the street.

No one was injured, Saturday, but colored residents of the section said grimly there would certainly be casualties if there was a second attempt to terrorize them.

Meet a New Apostle of Hate-Rev. Spinks

Afro-American. Bat. 9-10-49

Baltimore, Md

New Wave of KKK Terror Predicted as Alabama Dixiecrat Takes Office as Imperial Wizard

By STETSON KENNEDY,

The Rev. Lycurgus Spinks, newly-crowned Emperor and Imperial Wizard of the reincarnated Invisible Empire of the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, is an old wheelhorse of the Dixiecrat movement, a perusal of my files on the gentleman reveals.

Spinks was made dictator of the Invisible Empire by an Imperial Klonvokation which met in Montgomery, Ala., on Aug. 23. Attended by some 65 Grand Dragons, Titans, Ghouls, and Terrors from six Southern States, the klonvokation was the first of its kind since the war's end.

New Apostle of Hate in Dixie

The Rev. Lycurgus Spinks, his long mane flowing, gives out with words of hate at Montgomery, Ala., where he has been made the new Klan Imperial Wizard.

Claiming to represent 265,000 dues-paying Kluxers, the KKK hierarchy announced that it is moving its imperial headquarters from Atlanta to Montgomery, because of the latter's one-time status as capital of the Confederacy.

The Rev. Mr. Spinks, an itinerant preacher of hate of the Gerald L. K. Smith stripe, is not endorsed by any established religious denomination.

9-10-49

He is typical of the men who serve as Kludds (chaplains) of the Klan in order to gain a congregation, preaching the Ku Klux brand of Kristianity, and even stooping to pray at floggings.

Spinks first came to my attention when he was called in to pronounce a benediction over Bama's Dixiecrats of '44. Billed as a "mass meeting," the confab was attended by 35 persons, mostly "Big Mule" industralists.

Spinks delighted his audience by breathing fire-and-brimstone against the Roosevelt Administration and strongly intimating that FDR might well be assassinated.

Principal speaker at the abortive affair was then Senator Lee (Pass the Biscuits Pappy) O'Daniel of Texas, whom the boys proceeded to "nominate" as their candidate for President.

Again, when the Dixiecrats held their "convention" in Birmingham last year, Spinks was very much in evidence, consorting with such rabble-rousers as Gerald L. K. Smith and "Afalfa Bill" Murray. The latter is the man who, as governor of Oklahoma. tried to enforce residential segregation by declaring martial law.

More recently, during the trials of Alabama Kluxers accused of numerous floggings, the Rev. Mr. Spinks rushed to their defense.

The Klan's new Wizard is a veritable wild man campared to his predecessor, Grand Dragon Samuel Green, who died in Atlanta recently.

Whereas Green was a relatively mild dragon, who believed in keeping the Klan out of the public eye as much as possible, Spinks is a firebrand who will hardly miss an opportunity to make the KKK a constant eye-sore.

The methods employed will be the traditional ones of masked parades, demonstrations, cross-burnings, floggings and perhaps worse.

Return of Hoods Likely

One of Green's last official acts was to issue an edict banning the use of masks in public, but this will undoubtedly be rescinded by the hierarchy which now assumed control.

Although Green exercised some authority over klaverns in a number of Southern States, as well as in California, Indiana, Ohio, Pennslyvania, New Jersey and Maryland, he was never duly elected to the Wizardship.

More militant Dragons in Florida, Alabama, Tennessee, and Virginia refused to recognize his jurisdiction.

Four Others Operating

The group headed by Spinks is not the only one operating today. There are at least four others.

Perhaps the most "respectable" is the Association of Georgia Klans, which Green actually headed and from which he extended his influence. This group is now controlled by Samuel W. Roper, a former Atlanta policeman, who succeeded Dr. Green at an annual salary of $10,000.

There is the Original Southern Klans, Inc., of Columbus, Ga., which was formed now dying a slow death. It was anti-everything.

Also formed just a year ago and is the Southern Knights of the Ku Klux Klan of Tallahassee and Jacksonville, Fla. It played a prominent part in the Groveland rioting.

All Paying Some Price

Then there is the Federated Ku Klux Klans, Inc., of Alabama, with headquarters in Birmingham and Bessemer. It leader, William H. Morris of Birmingham. is in jail for contempt of court after refusing to produce Klan records when ordered to do so by the court.

The outbreak of violence in Birmingham, especially the bombings of colored persons homes, have brought a wave of feeling against the group, and its membership has suffered seriously.

It is believed that Spinks might try to bring all of these groups together, attracting them by his appeal to rabble-rousing and extreme campaigns of violence.

The Non-Sectarian Anti-Nazi League has already called upon the U.S. Treasury Department to levy its $685,305.08 tax claim against the reunited KKK, and other organizations will doubtless join in this demand.

HAROLD MARTIN

Notes on Dr. Lycurgus Spinks

It was my rare privilege to spend a few hours the other evening with the Reverend Doctor Lycurgus Spinks, then the "Imperial Emperor" of an organization called the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan of America, now the chaplain of a Klan which merged its forces with the Georgia organization of Samuel Roper.

It was, in a sense, like visiting a museum to call upon Doctor Spinks, for in his voice, which is orotund, and his manner, which is pontifical, and in his general appearance, which is like unto that of an old-time medicine man who sold snakeroot oil from the back of a torchlit wagon, Dr. Spinks is a throwback to another day.

At the time I was calling upon Doctor Spinks he was making preparations to go to Washington city, where he was to appear on a radio program called "Meet the Press." He knew that some of them Yankee varmints were going to be on the program, heckling him, and he was practicing up on what he was going to say to them. He was reviewing his childhood on an Alabama plantation, and was calling to mind several of the old Negroes he had known in his boyhood, and the wise sayings which he had picked up from them. There was one old Negro named Uncle Wylie, for instance, who had made a great impression upon him.

Constitution

"I remembah one mawin' I went out to the bahn-lot," said Doctor Spinks, "and I saw Uncle Wylie there with a f'ah goin' under the big pot we used to scald the hogs in. Since it was not hog-killin' time I inquired of Uncle Wylie why he had a f'ah going and why the pot was full of boilin' water. He told me that the rats had dug themselves channels all beneath the mudsills of the barn and he was going to pour the boiling water down the ratholes so that he could destroy the rats befo' they came out to eat the corn and wheat.

Atlanta, Ga

"That's what ah'm going to tell 'em in Washington. Son, when they ask me what me and my organization is atryin' to do, I am agoin' to tell 'em we are just heatin' up the water to pour into the ratholes where the Communists have dug under the mudsills of our government. I am goin' up there loaded for them. I am ready for a fight or a frolic, an' I don't give a damn which it turns out to be," said Dr. Spinks, who spent many years as a Baptist minister and evangelical speaker.

Wed. 9-28-49

I asked Dr. Spinks what was the sales talk he used in persuading men to come into his organization, since most folks in the South no longer get deeply stirred up by the Klan's old battle cry against the Catholics, the Jews and the Negroes. Dr. Spinks, who wears his white hair down around his shoulders, like the late Buffalo Bill, poured his coffee out into his saucer, lifted the saucer delicately to his lips, blew little cooling wavelets upon the surface of the liquid and pondered a moment.

"Son, I don't bother much with all them things. I just take out after them dastardly, rascally bureaucrats in Washington."

I then asked him how he could get folks stirred up against the bureaucrats in Washington when most of the men he appealed to, in smaller towns at least, were farmers, or who depended upon the farm trade for their living. How could he get a man mad at the government when the chances were the government had just put electric lights in his house, was showing him how and helping him to build fish ponds, and was holding a floor under the price he got for his

cotton.

"It's easy, son. Easy," said Dr. Spinks. "I just tell 'em they are entitled to every bit of bounty that the government is passing out—but the government ain't got no right at all to be meddling in their business and tellin' 'em how to run their office.

"When I tell them that, son," said Dr. Spinks, draining his saucer and filling it up again, "you just ought to hear 'em tear the house down."

3 1949

Gerald L.K. Smith

Courier 2-15-49

WHAT DOES GERALD L. K. SMITH STAND FOR?

Because of the attempts that have been made by Communists, New Dealers, and Jewish gestapo organizations to destroy the Crusade led by Gerald L. K. Smith, many Americans are unaware of the true principles for which this Crusader stands.

Gerald L. K. Smith is the National Director of the Christian Nationalist Party, organized in every state of the Union, which stands for the following program:

1 Preservation of America as a Christian Nation.

2. Exposure and outlawing of Communism.

3 Safeguarding of American liberty against the menace of New Deal bureaucracy.

4. Protection and earmarking of American resources for the welfare of the American people.

5 Maintenance of a government set up by the white Christian majority which will abuse no minority and will be abused by no minority.

6 Opposition to all attempts to substitute Jewish culture for traditional Christian culture in America.

7 Defense of racial purity against all efforts to force intermixture of the black and white races.

8 Opposition to all forms of world government or super-state.

9 Enforcement of a Constitutional money system free from usury and speculation.

10 Re-introduction of traditional American free economy that will protect our citizens from monopolistic and bureaucratic regimentation.

Additional information concerning the Christian Nationalist Party may be had free upon request. The official magazine— The Cross and The Flag - Gerald L. K. Smith, Publisher- Don Lohbeck, Editor, may be had for 1 year--$2.00 6 months- $1.00 1 copy—25c

Address all correspondence to:

Post Office Box D-4 St. Louis 1, Missouri

NATIONALIST CHRISTIAN PARTY AND LEADER

Gerald L. K. Smith who recently offered the services of himself and his party to the Dixiecrats of South Carolina to oppose securing civil rights for all citizens, and was told that the Dixiecrats did not wish such support, has come to St. Louis to advise the citizens how to administer the affairs of their city. (3) St. Louis Argus

Mr. Smith and his fellow-travelers wish to extend the practice of segregation in St. Louis. Indeed, he regards the practices of segregation in Birmingham, Alabama, so well suited to the needs of that city, that he has a suspicion that St. Louis will suffer if it lacks these regulations.

He proposes that the requisite number of signatures be secured as will permit his party to place upon the ballot an initiative petition that authority may be obtained to pass laws supporting the extension of the practice of segregation in St. Louis. St. Louis Mo.

Rather recently, a group of citizens attempted to prevent Mr. Smith from securing public property in which he wished to hold his meeting. His effort was abandoned because it was thought to interfere with free speech. Embolden by what he has interpreted as a victory, he returns to the city with a purpose to change its laws and give it a new policy for government. Fri. 1-7-49

Just what is it that Mr. Smith and his Christian Nationalist Party is seeking to do?

Don Lonback, Smith's first lieutenant says: "An initiative petition for a city ordinance prescribing the way Negro and white people may assemble for a meeting and entertainment places." The ordinance would separate Negro and white people at movie houses, auditoriums, ball parks and provide separate entrances, separate seats, and separate exits for the two races.

Mr. Smith seems deeply impressed by the operation of such laws in Birmingham, Alabama, and he wwishes to impose them upon the citizens of St. Louis.

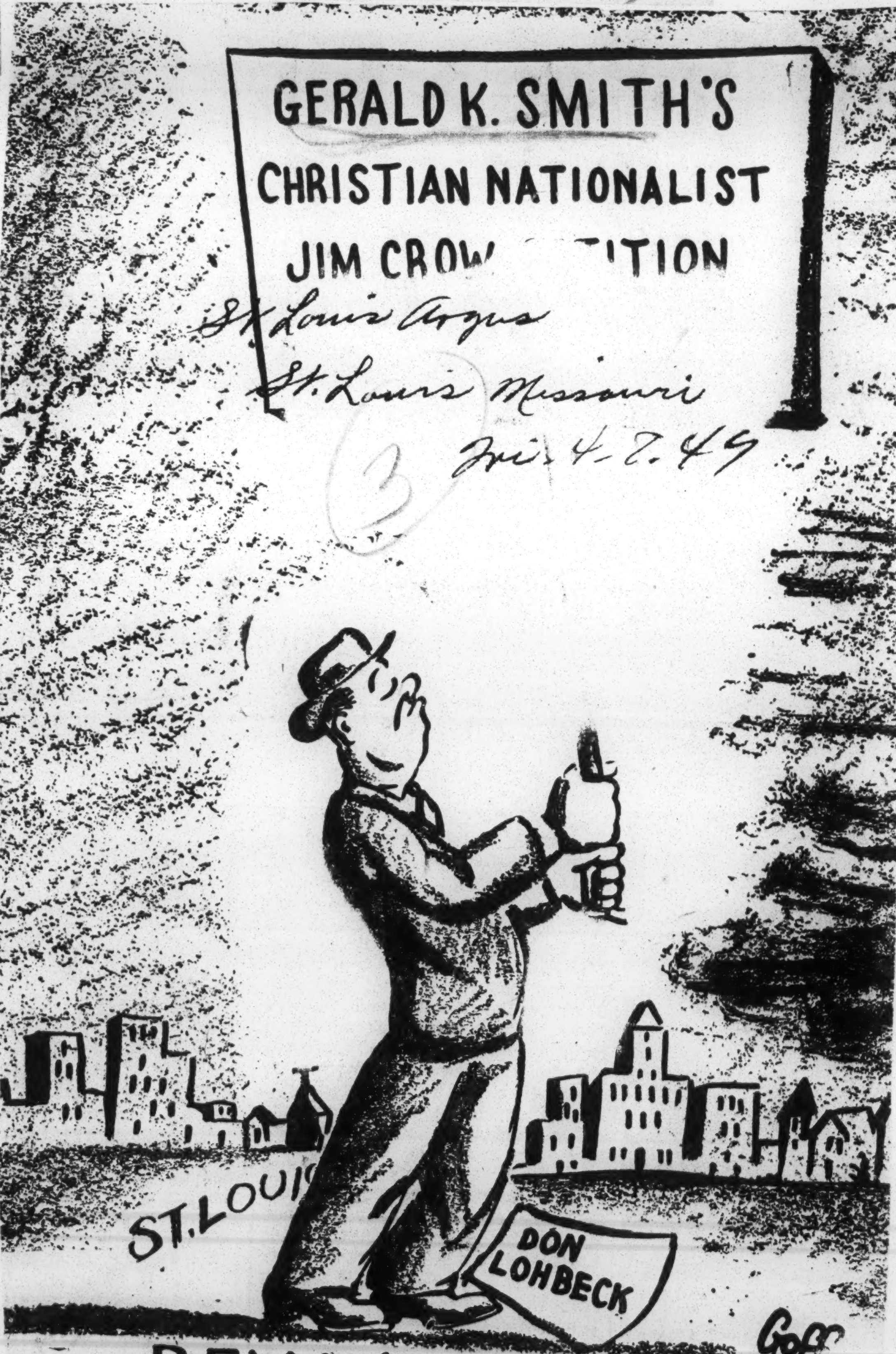
He has made no survey to discover whether the citizens of St. Louis felt a need for such legislation. He has a conviction that the citizens do not know what is best for their city.. With his fuller knowledge and wider wisdom, he comes to deliver them from an impending calamity--an overhanging catastrophe. Fri. 1-7-49

Since there has been no official invitation to Mr. Smith to render these services and no expression of the citizens that the services are needed, it appears that Mr. Smith is looking for a job and proceeds to perform the services before the contracts for such services have been signed.

It might be some information to Mr. Smith to be told that his government is now moving toward the elimination of the practice of segregation in the nation, and to raise the question whether it is his government, or to oppose the policy of his government? (3) 1-7-49

As a leader of a Nationalist Christian Party, it maybe presumed that Mr. Smith believes in and seeks to promote the democratic way of life. And, that his emphasis upon "Christian" that he believes in the essential teachings of Jesus of Nazareth----the Fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man. Fri. 1-7-49

Has Mr. Smith come to cross----purposes with himself? He is a nationalist and a follower of the Nazarene. Why does he seek to inspire groups of human-beings to antagonize each other, when he might be doing something for them to engage in friendly human relations?



DEVIL'S PICKET

ASK THE MAYOR TO REBUFF GERALD SMITH

The Ideal Baptist Ministers Union called on all the St. Louis ministers to denounce Gerald L. K. Smith's "program of hate" at its regular meeting today. It was the Ideal Baptist Ministers Union, and it appealed to the Mayor and Aldermen "to give to the City of St. Louis the protection it needs against such programs of hate, by passing immediately the Civil Rights bill which it has in its possession at the present time."

The group also appealed to the President "to speak up in defense of his proposed program of civil rights so that it may become immediately effective here in his own home state.

Members of the Union's Committee for Defense of Civil Rights are William Wagstaff, J. B. Sims, Ike Ridge, R. Vines, James Spencer, A. Moore and Joseph Taylor.

Klan Inspires Giggles in Many Parts of South

Negroes Grin at Paraders and Whites Heckle Them; Many Cities Ban Masks

ATLANTA April 16 (AP).—The attitude of manw Southerners toward the Ku-Klux Klan has changed.

At Gainesville, Ga., fifty miles north of here, a Negro woman eyed a Ku-Klux Klan parade from her porch rocking chair. A dozen hooded heads turned as she sang out, "Send us yo' sheets, white folks, we'll wash 'um." The Negroes lining the road grinned broadly and as the parade moved on, a flock of giggling Negro children fell in behind, drumming loudly on tin pans.

Last February at West Columbia, S. C., Dr. Samuel Green, grand dragon of the association of Georgia Klans, told a crowd of Klansmen and curious that unless "white supremacy" was maintained, "the day will come when a black buck Negro may ask for your daughter's hand in marriage."

A voice on the outskirts drawled, "Well, she can always say 'No,' can't she?"

Students Heckle Klansmen

Most of the hecklers at the meeting, which produced a stench bomb, were later identified as University of South Carolina students. Police were hard put to prevent a clash between Klansmen and students.

The terror or respect—take your choice—which the Klan once inspired is diminishing.

When the Klan held its big "klanvocation" for the initiation of new members into "citizenship" near Stone Mountain, Ga., last fall, a Negro minister said he was pressed to keep his people from taking a few pot shots at men in white robes.

At Mumford, Ala., on Feb. 20, a twelve-year-old boy kicked over a burning cross and doused it in a water hole. Later that night men armed with shotguns were reported on the prowl for Klansmen.

The Mumford incident prompted Alabama's Governor James E. Folsom to order the arrest of any one operating a car with a concealed license plate, a favorite Klan device. Governor Folsom said, "Mobs, hooded or unhooded, are not going to rule Alabama."

The time has passed when politicians were afraid to speak out against the Klan. Irate city councils in a half dozen cities have passed anti-mask ordinances on the heels of Klan parades—Wrightsville, Columbus and Macon, Ga., Chattanooga, Tenn., Tallahassee and Miami, Fla. Atlanta's Junior Chamber of Commerce is pressing for a similar ban.

Intimidation Barred

A Klan parade at Denmark, S. C., brought quick reaction from Governor Strom Thurmond, who told state police to get busy enforcing laws against "intimidation" by masked men. Dr. Green promised Governor Thurmond he would "banish" any Klansman guilty of violating laws.

Nobody assailed the Klan more than Governor Fuller Warren of Florida. He called them "hooded hoodlums and sheeted jerks" after a parade through Tallahassee.

Governor Warren said he would ask the state Legislature for an anti-mask law and ordered the arrest of any one attempting to conceal license plates. Three Georgians were arrested and convicted of participation in that parade.

The recent session of the Georgia Legislature saw an anti-mask law defeated 85 to 65, but Klan opponents accepted the vote as a moral victory. The margin of defeat was less than ever before.

Robed Klansmen have appeared in churches in Atlanta, Miami and Chattanooga to offer prayers and make substantial contributions. In two cases congregations forced the resignation of pastors. One southwide Baptist group condemned such practices as "bribery." They were supported by a Methodist ministers' organization.

Within the pattern of change, however, there were still hangovers from the days of direct violence and intimidation.

Seven Prisoners Flogged

At Trenton, Ga., Sheriff J. W. Lynch reported that robed men took seven Negro prisoners from him, carried them to Hooker, Ga., and there flogged the lot. The sheriff said he had arrested the Negroes after receiving complaints of "wild parties."

Latest of the violence outbreaks was reported April 6 in Chattanooga, just over the Tennessee line from Trenton. A thirty-eight-year-old railway worker said five unmasked white men invaded his house and beat him severely.

The grand dragon says the Klan is "building up fast," but it is public knowledge that the Klan is bothered by internal dissensions. Last year two large klaverns at Manchester and Columbus, Ga., broke away to form "the original Southern Klans, Inc." Dr. Green terms it a "Bolshevik group" which pulled out "because they couldn't run things." He blames them for the Tallahasee parade.

In Miami, once a hot-bed of Klan activity, the remaining group is split over whether to wear hoods in public.

The anti-defamation league of B'nai B'rith says the Klan is largely impotent outside of Georgia. Within Georgia the Klan is known to be having trouble keeping its private business private.

SOUTHERN STATES MOVE TO PUT CURBS ON KLAN

New Laws May Be Enacted in Attempt To Meet Outburst of Violence

By FRED HIXSON

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

CHATTANOOGA, April 9—The Ku Klux Klan and its imitators have been stalking through various sections of the Southland with renewed frequency in recent months.

"Klan fever" seems to have broken out simultaneously in many places, and Tennessee's anti-mask law only seemed to make the night riders more daring. In recent weeks it has been unmasked mobs that have appeared on the porches of individuals, luring or forcing citizens into the inevitable automobile rides to "punishment."

The box score for the past four months shows that some sixteen individuals in the Chattanooga area were kidnapped from their homes by small mobs and spirited off either to be whipped or threatened, but usually whipped.

Hooded Beatings

At Hooker, Ga., last week, robed men, whom the sheriff identified as Klansmen, kidnapped seven Negroes, rod to a secluded spot and beat them unmercifully with leather belts and switches.

One of the victims of the floggings was a war veteran who had seen combat service in North Africa, Sicily, Italy and France. Another was a combat veteran of the South Pacific with an equally meritorious reco d.

"Naturalization" Ceremonies

Considerable impetus has been given the Klan by the recent activities of Dr. Samuel Green, the busy Atlanta obstetrician who is the self-styled grand dragon of the "Knights of the Invisible Empire." He has been traveling at night to many parts of the South to conduct his so-called "naturalization" ceremonies. At these ceremonies, the candidates listen to a ritual chanted by "elders" of the organization in full regalia. The Bible, the American flag and other items calculated to arouse the emotions are brought into the ritual, and by the time the group kneels before the fiery cross to take the oath from the purple-robed, rabble-rousing grand dragon, many an initiate is worked up to a high emotional pitch.

Though the grand dragon insists he does not tolerate lawlessness and denies any malice toward Negroes and Jews, the Klan oath requires a candidate to swear he is a "white male gentile person * * * a believer in the tenets of the Christian religion, the maintenance of white supremacy." Moreover, the Klansman vows that if he proves "untrue" he will accept "whatever penalty your authority may impose."

Effect of Civil Rights

Dr. Green and his organization view President Truman's civil rights program as tailor-made propaganda for Klan membership. Dr. Green, in a speech, talked of "streets in the South running with blood" if the civil rights program became the law, and hailed Gov. Herman Talmadge as champion of the "white man's South."

The Klan takes full credit for electing Herman Talmadge Governor of Georgia, and there is little doubt that it was a powerful influence. During the recent session of the General Assembly elected with Talmadge, efforts to outlaw wearing of masks in public failed. Talmadge leaders in the Assembly helped to vote these measures down. Some anti-Talmadge men voted "No." But the administration forces led the fight against the measure.

That Dr. Green dreams of the time when his "invisible empire" will become visible few observers doubt.

Klan membership figures are a strict secret.

Voice of a Judge

What are the people of the South doing about the Klan? From Atlanta last week came the voice of a member of the Georgia Court of Appeals—Judge J. J. C. Townsend—calling for grand jury action.

At Tallahassee, Fla., Gov. Fuller Warren, in a message to the General Assembly, denounced the Klan and asked that laws be enacted to make it unlawful for persons to wear masks in public in that state.

At Nashville, Tenn., legislation was proposed to bolster Tennessee's eighty-year-old "Ku Klux Klan statute," which bans the wearing of masks and makes it a capital offense for anyone wearing a mask to assault another person with a lethal weapon.

As the civil rights battle has grown hotter the Klan has become bolder but it has gone so far that it is alienating the law-abiding elements that make up most of the South.

Resistance to the Klan nowhere in the South has been sufficient to halt the march of the masked bands. In one community some citizens have offered to organize and resist the Klan's lawlessness. That plan was suggested when it appeared law-enforcement agents were implicated in Klan operations. But so far the resistance movement is in a nebulous state and is yet to be developed.

"YELLOW FEVER"

York in The Louisville Times

Hate Groups Revived In South, Author Says, To Break Up Unions

The Birmingham News
B'ham Ala.
Mon. 5-23-49

WASHINGTON, May 23—(AP)—Author Stetson Kennedy testified last week there has been a revival in the South of Fascist and "hate" groups using inflammatory racial and religious prejudices for "union busting" purposes.

Kennedy, author of "Southern Exposure," gave a documented account of what he called the "hate business" to a House labor subcommittee considering measures to ban discrimination in employement.

Chairman Powell (D., N. Y.) asked Kennedy to return later to present his account to the full committee. Mon. 5-23-49

"What you have said here seems to show clearly that Fascist organizations and the hate business are on the upswing," Powell said.

The administration has a bill before the committee to establish a Federal Fair Employment Practices Commission and ban job discrimination because of race, color, religion or national origin.

Kennedy told the subcommittee that Homer Loomis, former head of the "Columbians," is "again becoming active." He described the Columbians as anti-Semitic.

* * *

THE COLUMBIANS, formed in Atlanta, featured uniforms and Nazi salutes.

The so-called hate organizations, Kennedy said, are "financed by union-busting organizations" to maintain low wages for both white and Negro workers in th South.

Th Ku Klux Klan, he continued, has as "its No. 1 postwar plan the defeat of civil rights legislation, especially the FEPC."

Anti-Negro and anti-religious campaigns are publicized in "hate sheets," Kennedy told the committee, for the purpose of breaking up union organization. He said the money for them comes from the "Big Mules," that is big business firms.

He named "Southern Outlook," "Militant Truth," and "The Trumpet" as among these publications.

* * *

REP. BURKE (D., Ohio) asked Kennedy if he ever heard of "a filthy hate sheet named The White Horse?"

"Yes," replied Kennedy. "It is published in Atlanta. It's anti-Catholic, I think."

"Maybe that's why they sent it to me," Burke, a Catholic, commented laughing.

Morality By Terror

Washington Post
Wash. D.C.
Wed. 6-22-49

The acts of violence committed in the South by hooded and sheeted men during the past fortnight are not typical lynchings, in that local law enforcement officers appear to have had no complicity in them. Moreover, the victims, 11 of them thus far, have been white persons, and they have been flogged or threatened with death but not actually killed. Otherwise, the attributes of what is called "lynch law" have been evidenced. Private persons have inflicted punishment for "offenses" which were not criminal, without any authority or process of law. 6-23-49

The "offenses" punished by the masked hoodlums all seem to belong in the morals category. In the latest case, a mother was beaten with a rope because the night riders didn't like the company kept by one of her daughters. Other victims were accused of "improper behavior" or of "mingling with Negroes" or of other infractions of what the lynchers consider proper conduct.

If these are not true lynchings, the South nevertheless has its tradition of lynching to thank for them. For certainly they are inspired by and reflective of the tolerance with which too many Southern officials have in the past looked upon mobs which took the law into their own hands. Nothing is plainer than that violence breeds violence and that disrespect for law is incorrigibly contagious. The lesson should not be lost upon the authorities of Alabama, where the violence has been concentrated. It is greatly to be hoped that they will have speedy success in putting an end to this ugly terrorism—and that they will act with equal vigor henceforth to prevent terrorism in all its forms.

"SMUDGE POT OF NATIONAL DISGRACE"

Loring in The Providence Bulletin

AROUSED SOUTH TAKES STEPS AGAINST NEW KLAN VIOLENCE

The Times, New York. N.Y.

Floggings and Policing of Morals Bring Out Protests and Demands for Legislation

Sun. 6-26-49

By JOHN N. POPHAM
Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn., June 25—Once again the Deep South is witnessing a wave of community terrorism. (3)

A resurgent Ku Klux Klan that began a wave of night-riding and cross-burning about two years ago, principally to intimidate Negroes seeking to exercise their civil-rights guarantees, has broken out in a rash of lawlessness including the flogging of war veterans and women and the "policing" of public morals. Sun. 6-26-49

Observers who have charted the Klan's activities noted that the hooded order began to show a new strength at about the same time the civil-rights controversy got under way and Federal court decisions ordered greater voting privileges for Negroes.

For the past year or so in parts of Alabama, Georgia, South Carolina and Florida, the robed and masked Klansmen have paraded the streets and held initiation ceremonies under burning crosses, all obviously designed to "pass the word" to Negroes to keep away from the polls.

Step by step the Klan increased its "disciplinary" activities and in recent weeks it has taken upon itself the role of watchdog for public and private conduct by administering nocturnal floggings to those it accuses of such "indecencies" as staying up too late, drinking to excess or failing to work steadily at a job.

While civic, religious, patriotic and business leaders took a strong stand against an outbreak of Klan depredations, Gov. James E. Folsom moved quickly against the Klan by asking the Alabama Legislature to adopt an anti-mask law. The measure passed the Senate by a vote of 23 to 3 and is expected to come before the House on Tuesday.

In Washington it was announced that a Congressional civil-rights subcommittee would investigate the acts of violence in Alabama and take testimony from witnesses.

Klan leaders, who are openly lobbying against the anti-mask bill in Alabama, have denied that members have engaged in lawless night-riding. The victims, however, have described typical Klan regalia in relating how their assailants were dressed.

No report on Klan violence would be complete without calling attention to the vigorous attacks that Southern newspapers have directed against it. From the first the press, editorially and through special writers, has warned against the Klan's renascence.

There is ample evidence that the majority of Southerners are opposed to the Klan. In some sections an aroused public opinion has met the challenge by forcing Legislatures and municipalities to adopt laws with teeth in them.

Another Attack on the South Today---

Constitution, Atlanta Ga.

Just so that Georgians and other Southerners may have a little warning, there is to be an attack on the South today, as well as another on the FBI and the Department of Justice. There also will be a ringing denunciation of the trial of Communists in New York and the deportation of Communists and alien enemies.

That well-known ex-Georgian and associate of fellow travelers, Clark Foreman, is scheduled to give an expose in New York of the Ku Klux Klan, seeking to prove it really is running the State of Georgia. That's a phony, as would be expected. The Klan is an un-American, un-Christian organization, dangerous because it corrupts police forces, encourages perjury, sometimes impedes justice, gives protection to brutes and sadists, and is otherwise an enemy of government. But it is not running Georgia. As an organization it is not feared and it is not influential save in a few rural counties where it is in control. Sun. 7-17-49

The attack is to be in a speech before the phony "Bill of Rights Congress." This outfit includes Paul Robeson, the singer; Vito Marcantonio, four of the Communists now on trial in New York; Beanie Baldwin, Henry Wallace himself and altogether as eminent a set of shabby, shopworn fellow travelers and Commies as the nation can provide. So let's just know it for what it is, and not let it raise our blood pressure.

S.C. Klanrat Meet Flops; Only 272 There

DENMARK, S. C.—A much-heralded "state-wide konklave" of klanrats in South Carolina turned out to be a notorious flop last week. Only 272 "bed-sheet knights" turned up for the session which was announced as "a gathering of thousands."

"Grand Dragon" Sam Green of Atlanta was the principal speaker. Observers noted that many cars bearing Georgia licenses were in the parking lot where the klanrats gathered, indicating that the "Dragon" was dragging his Georgia hoodlums along to swell the count, just as was done several weeks ago in Florida.

Religious and civic groups in the state have expressed opposition to a revival of the klanrat racket, which bilked thousands of illiterate white dupes out of money following World War I.

SOUTH CAROLINA U. STUDENTS SHOWER KLAN "SUPREMACY" MEETING WITH STENCH-BOMBS

COLUMBIA, S. C., March 5—(Special)—That the death knell of the Ku Klux Klan sounds louder and louder as the days go by, was evinced here last week when University of South Carolina students broke up a Klan meeting with stench-bombs, in progress in a suburban section. The surprise took place right in the featured part of grand dragon Samuel Green's speech on "white supremacy."

Burley Klansmen, assisteed by policemen of suburban West Columbia dispersed the students, but they kept up their heckling from he edge of a vacant lot the klan had rented for the meetig.

At least three bombs fell in the ring of klansmen grouped around Green's speakers' stand' Black acrid smoke rose all aound the sheeted figures and smelled up the proceedings.

When a reasonable amount of the commotion was over, Green continued his speech, reiterating his pledge to "shed our last drop of blood" to preserve white supremacy." His aides jumped off the stand to deal with the students. Fifteen uniformed members of West Columbia's police force then told the students to move on. They reluctantly withdrew.

Green had been introduced and loudly applauded in the legislature earlier in the day. About 500 klansmen attended the out-doors meeting.

KLAN THREATS FAIL TO SCARE MILITANT EDITOR OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA LIGHTHOUSE WEEKLY

Threatened "Ride" of Hooded Order Discounted in Stirring Editorial

WANTS CITIZENS TO SUPPORT LAW AND ORDER

COLUMBIA, S. C. — (ANP) — John N. McCray, editor of the weekly Lighthouse and Informer, voiced open defiance against a reported Ku Klux Klan to "get him," here last week. The declaration was contained in a recent editorial column in his paper, which also said he had received indirect reports that the hooded outfit planned to give him "the ride and treatment" it has given James M. Hinton, state NAACP president.

"I dislike violence and have always dodged it," McCray wrote. "I would do the same now and get on the run, only I don't believe that is the way to solve problems which stem from traditional human relations.

"You can't solve the Klan problem any more by running away from it than you can solve the complex problem of race relations."

He called upon "citizens of all races, shades and creeds, to stand by as a posse, ready to go into action at the signal of law enforcement agencies in giving us the protection we need."

He related there is "grave danger in trying to match violence with violence," but declared he is in favor of a posse or group of men "who if necessary will be ready to protect themselves in co-operation with and with the approval of law enforcement officers."

Klan Flogs 4, Shoots 2 In Night Raid

COLUMBIA, S.C. — Four men, including the father of six children, were brutally flogged and at least one of them was shot Sunday night by a hooded band of whites.

One of the victims, Elliot Bates, 30, said in a Columbia hospital that the night riders shot him in the hand and thigh after beating his brother and terrorizing his family.

Bates related the masked mob came to his house to give him and his brother, Harry, their "civil rights."

Wife Beaten

In a detailed account of the floggings, Bates said about five or six white men with shirt masks on their faces came to his home, kicked his wife and told her to get back to bed.

"Then they got my brother, carried him out, shot him through the shoulder and beat him up," explained Bates.

"Then they came in and got me out of bed, dragged me out on the porch and one of them hit me over the head with a blackjack. Then they shot me in my left hand and left thigh. I do not know any reason why they came to get me," he declared.

Girl Assaulted

Rev. M. W. Jackson, who reported the floggings, identified the other victims as Johnny Bates and Johnny Peterson. Rev. Jackson said the mobsters, who wore swatches of flimsy white material like that of a window curtain over their faces, also bludgeoned a small girl with the butt of a pistol.

Peterson was beaten at Bates' home, related Rev. Jackson. He said the men told him that with each stroke of the lash the floggers cried: "This is your civil rights."

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S.C. Whites Razz Klan Klowns; Governor Folsom Warns Them

CAMDEN, S. C. — University of South Carolina students pelted the bed-sheeted klanrats with stench bombs and gravel as they paraded through this town in hoods and robes last week to an out-door recruiting meeting to hear Grand Dragon Sam Green make a spread-eagle appeal for white supremacy.

The white students along the line of march kidded the be-draggled paraders with shouts of "Hey, honey, your slip is showing," and "Oo, look at the dread bid mans in his night shirt."

Surrounded by the smoke of stench bombs and keckled by derisive cat calls at the meeting place, Green called for white southerners to take klanrat pledge "to shed the last drop of our blood" to prevent civil rights legislation and equal rights for Negroes.

One student on the rim of the crowd shouted the perfect answer to Green's "$64 question" When Green demanded "Would you want your sister to marry a Negro?", the youth answered, "She can always say No", and the white crowd howled with laughter.

A police guard stood about to prevent clashes between the hooded klanrats and the rolliking crowd. Of the 500 bed-sheeted klanrats in attendance at the meet, more than half are reported to have motored over from neighboring Georgia towns.

Seek Legislation From Gen'l Assembly

COLUMBIA, S. C.—(ANP)— Gov. Strom Thurmond and the general assembly were asked by the South Carolina Federated forces, an-all-white state moral welfare group, here last week, to pass legislation to "outlaw all hooded and intimidating organizations." Specifically, the proposal sought "protection to see that no citizens are molested or intimidated" at an announced Ku Klux Klan gathering in Denmark.

The Denmark meeting was announced by Dr. Samuel Green of Atlanta, recently. He said he would be the only speaker and that he planned "to let the folk know what the Klan stands for and what it doesn't stand for."

The committee termed the Klan "anti-Christian" and said it "masqueraded under a cloak of hypocrisy before God and man."

The organization is composed of 16 white church denominations and has an estimated 7,000 members.

MAYBE—THE KLAN WILL GROW UP

Probably the greatest upset to the hopes of grand dragon Samuel Green to convince South Carolinians that members of the klan were dedicated—"to the last drop of blood"—in their bodies to "uphold white supremacp," was experienced several nights ago, when University of South Carolina students deluged members of that body with stench bombs, just when the grand dragon was in the featured part of his speech, belching the fire of race hatred, discrimination, and a little of everything else but brotherly love.

Judging from the difficulty many of the 500 klan members and the 15 suburban policemen had dispersing the students,—one of whose stench bombs landed on the speaker's stand, occupied by Green, and two in the middle of his "inner circle," immediately surrounding it—the students must have been a determined lot.

By now, Geen and his sheeted brigand—throwbacks from Reconstrucion days; rats clinging to a long lost ship—should know that they are but guagmire beneath the feet of a nation playing the role of its "Brothers' Keeper" to all the peoples of the earth.

The wonder is, who ever told klan leader Green that his so-called "white supremacy" is challenged? Such a thought seems rather a machination of the klan founders' minds—passed on down the line from one Negro-hating-group to another.

It is time now, for the klan to snap out of its nightmare and begin doing some real constructive work, for as a chain will be no stronger than its weakest link, America can be no stronger than the weakest group within it..

The klan is definitely the weakest among us..

Vigilantes Will War On Klan In S. C.

COLUMBIA, S. C. May 17 — "Fight fire with fire" is the motto of a vigilante group just formed here to oppose the Ku Klux Klan. According to Maxie C. Collins, executive secretary of the South Carolina Federated (Church) Forces, the members will fight the Klan with the hooded order's own methods.

Collins cited as a case which the new organization might avenge, the recent beating of Shelton Lorick, Lexington County Negro, by a group of white men.

Denying connection with the organization, Collins stated he thought something definite will be announced soon by the people in the organization. He would not say if both whites and Negroes were in it.

Students Give Klan Stench-Bombing

COLUMBIA, S. C.—(U.P.)—University of South Carolina Students peppered a Ku Klux Klan meeting at suburban West Columbia with stench bombs. Grand Dragon Samuel Green was making a speech on white supremacy.

Klansmen, assisted by police, dispersed the students. But they kept up their heckling from the edge of a vacant lot that the Klan had rented for the m[illegible]

Seek Outlaw Of Ku Klux Klan In So. Carolina

Federated Forces

S.C. Editor Says He Won't Run From Klan

COLUMBIA, S. C. — John McCray, militant editor of the Limehouse and Informer, weekly newspaper, declared this week, following receipt of threats of klan violence that he would stand his ground and would not run from the hooded gangsters.

Anonymous warnings that McCray's editorial attacks on the klan and other lawless groups had angered the white supremacists have been circulated, together with threats to "get him."

"Too many people have run from the klan in the past," McCray declared in a printed statement. "That is no solution. Instead, I call upon law-abiding citizens of all shades to stand by as a posse, ready to go into action at the signal from law enforcement agents to give us the protection we are entitled to as American citizens."

Youths Rout 6 With Shots

Unmasked Cowards Flee in Two Cars

PEOPLE UNAFRAID

Keep Nightly Vigil to Guard Lives, Homes

COLUMBIA, S.C. — Six unmasked Klansmen bent on "teaching a lesson" to a colored man who had incurred their wrath, were given a taste of their own medicine by an unidentified group of colored youths in West Columbia recently.

According to the report colored people in the area not far from "Dixiana", where 77-year-old Shelton Lorick was seized and beaten by the Klan two weeks ago, organized and prepared to resist any more such intrusions.

Routed by Youngsters

When the Klansmen arrived in the section in two cars, they were seen by the youths who have volunteered to "stand guard" at night and report any suspicious white men who may be on a Klan expedition.

They went for reinforcements, descended upon the unsuspecting Klansmen and put them to route.

Fled in Cars

Two or three shots were allegedly fired by the attacking vigilantes and the un-hooded trespassers fled the scene in their cars.

A check of colored homes in the vicinity of West Columbia. Cayce and Dixiana, disclosed that the owners are prepared against a midnight forage of Klansmen.

Will Stay and Fight

Preparation for defense of their lives and property began last year after Klan parades and motorcades began passing through the area.

Several crosses have been burned in the section. and the motorcades were reported to come from the Georgia border.

This was given some credence when, a few months ago, Dr. Samuel Green, grand dragon of the Georgia Klan, spoke to Klansmen in West Columbia and Cayce.

Another Incident Told

It was also revealed that, some months ago, colored people in the Arthurtown section of suburban Columbia fired shots over the heads of a group of white men who burned several crosses there.

In Anderson, last summer, with the approval of some city officials, colored people had prepared "fireballs" to toss on any masked paraders. But a scheduled Klan demonstration which defied a city ordinance was cancelled.

Night Riders Shoot, Beat 2 Men in S.C.

COLUMBIA, S.C. (ANP)—Night riders rode out against Elliott Bates, his brother and his family, here recently and now he is in a local hospital suffering from gunshot wounds in the hand and thigh.

Bates, 30, said the masked mob came to his home "to give me and my brother our civil rights."

"About five or six white men with short masks on their faces came to my home. My wife was the first to get up. They kicked her and told her to get back in bed. Then they got my brother, Harry, carried him out, and shot him through the shoulder and beat him up.

"Then they came on and got me, dragged me out on the porch and one of them hit me over the head with a blackjack. Then they shot me in my left hand and left thigh."

Jail Klanrat Under Old Tennessee Law

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn.—C. R. Terry, white grocer and klanrat was indicted here last week by a grand jury which returned a nine-count true bill against him under an 80-year old state law against wearing hoods and robes in public.

Terry was identified as one of about 75 bed-sheet terrorists who burned a fiery cross before a night club which had been closed by the police in December. During the demonstration a gun was fired at the building by the klanrats, and a white newspaper reporter was chased from the scene.

Under the old law, appearance in public in robe and hood call for penalties of imprisonment from 10 to 20 years as felonies, and misdemeanors, in the nature of disturbance of the public peace, and alarming the citizenry provide fines up to $500 and jail sentences of one year or more.

The law, passed in 1869 to outlaw the klanrats, and upheld by the state supreme ecourt, provides the death penalty for assault with a deadly weapon while masked. Terry was arrested for participation in the assault on the night club, and was released on $1,500 bond while awaiting trial.

Tennessean Wounded By Loaded Cross

KNOXVILLE, TENN., June 12—(AP)—Police said the Ku Klux Klan burned a cross loaded with shotgun shells here Saturday night that exploded and wounded one person.

Near the burning cross, police said, was a note written on a Klan letterhead and addressed to Mr. and Mrs. Joe Hutchinson. It warned: "Stay away from Negro church services."

Police said the cross was burned in the heavily industrialized Lonsdale section of Knoxville, the second such incident in the past three months.

They said Hutchinson told them he was a Church of God minister and had attended services with mixed congregations a number of times.

The victim of the shotgun shell explosion was A. R. Miller, a resident of the neighborhood who was attracted to the scene of the cross-burning. Miller's injuries were not considered serious.

Report Police Probed For Ku Klux Linking

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn.—(INS) The Chattanooga News-Free Press said yesterday it had learned that the Hamilton County Grand Jury is investigating the Police Department and the Attorney General's office for suspected Ku Klux Klan activity by policemen.

Efforts are being made by the Grand Jury to determine if law enforcement officials are involved in recent KKK mob activity in the Chattanooga area, the paper said.

Threaten Family For Visiting Negro Church

KNOXVILLE, Tenn.—Shotgun shells attached to a burning cross exploded here Saturday night in the yard of a white couple who were said to have attended a Negro church. One man was wounded. Joe L. Hutchinson, in whose ward the demonstration occurred, said "I'm going where I please as long as the American flag flies over this country."

Hutchinson was away at the time—attending church services—but his son-in-law, Joe O'Neil, said two men hopped out of a small truck, set up the cross and fired it, and sped away. In a few seconds the shotgun blasts were heard.

A. R. Miller, 29, a neighbor had approached the emblem and several of the pellets struck him. He refused medical attention but a spectator said he was bleeding.

A note, typewritten on paper bearing a Ku Klux Klan seal, said the Hutchinsons had been attending a Negro church although there were "five Holiness churches in Knoxville you and your family would be welcome to attend." It ended with a warning to "beware."

Hutchinson said he had been going to hear a Negro evengelist, and that more whites than Negroes were attending.

O'Neal said the men were apparently not disguised, but that they worked too swiftly for him to see who they were or get their license number.

Attorney general Hal Clements, Jr., said he hoped to get the men responsible and convict them under a law against conspiracy to inflict corporal punishment, in view of Miller's injuries.

Klan Visits Dixie Church

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn., Jan. 24 (AP)—The church pianist fainted and her husband resigned as musical director and member of the board of trustees when a group of hooded men who represented themselves as Ku Klux Klansmen visited services last night.

Mrs. Arch Gray, the pianist, fainted during the visit and her husband later resigned "from all official duties with the church." Gray, district circulation manager for the Chattanooga *News-Free Press*, said he recently had read a story quoting Dr. Samuel Green of Atlanta, grand dragon of the Klan, as saying that the hooded order does not enter a church except upon invitation from the pastor or of the official governing board.

Some 'Nooga Police Officers May Be Ku Kops

Newspaper Declares Grand Jury Looking Into Possibility

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn., June 17—(AP)—The Chattanooga News-Free Press said it learned from "unimpeachable sources" today that the Hamilton County Grand Jury is investigating city police for possible Ku Klux Klan activity.

The paper said the attorney general's office is being investigated in connection with leaks of secret grand jury testimony law violators.

THE STORY ADDED that the police department also is being investigated by the Grand Jury for possible concerted protection of gamblers.

The last two grand juries here have been charged by Criminal Judge Raulston Schoolfield that their most important work would be investigating mob violence in Hamilton County. More than a score of persons have been beaten by bands of masked or unmasked men in this area since February.

* * *

POLICE COMMISSIONER Roy Hyatt said recently he would fire any member of his force who is found to be a member of the Klan or any other hooded organization.

Dist. Atty. Gen. W. Corry Smith said recently that he would seek the death penalty for any man indicted in a recent beating carried out by masked men at a Dolly Pond church. Six persons were beaten at the church. They blamed the Klan.

Tennessee Klan Seeking Recruits

COLUMBIA, TENN., July 23—(AP)—The Ku Klux Klan apparently is launching a campaign to enlist new members here.

The city has been deluged with KKK circulars lately and two crosses have been burned on Reservoir Hill in recent months.

One of the most widely circulated pieces of Klan literature is one entitled, "Wake Up America." It calls on those interested to write Box 925, Atlanta, Ga.

Sheriff Flo Fleming says that as yet he has found no evidence of a Klan organization here. He said no one was found at the scene of the two cross burnings.

NASHVILLE, TENN., July 23—(AP)—A man who claims he is the Tennessee kleagle of the Ku Klux Klan said tonight the Klan had nothing to do with recent cross burnings in middle Tennessee.

An unemployed carpenter who identified himself as L. M. Emery, of Nashville, walked unannounced into The Nashville Tennessean and told a reporter:

"We believe in white supremacy, but we are not fighting the Negro. Our stand is against communism and socialism."

White Youth Learn Violence Campaign Too

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn.—Violence flared anew on the Georgia-Tennessee line which has been marked within recent weeks by intensified Ku Klux Klan activity.

The latest report by Chattanooga police reveals that an unidentified Negro boy was reported kidnapped and beaten by five white youths.

Eye-witnesses said the victim was beaten before he was forced into the car, which they said bore Georgia license plates.

The State Highway Patrol and Rossville, Ga., officers have joined in the search for the missing Negro youth.

Tenn. Flog Victims Flee Columbia Area

COLUMBIA, Tenn. — Sheriff Flo Fleming said Monday he has launched a probe into the reported beating of a man and a woman near Columbia Saturday.

The Sheriff said the pair have apparently fled the area, making an investigation difficult.

A neighbor reported he was at the home of the unmarried couple when about 50 men in automobiles stopped in front of the house. He said he left hurriedly, and about 16 men got out of the cars and beat the couple. The remainder of the men in the group stayed in the cars.

The neighbor, who was not identified by the Sheriff, said the couple showed marks of a severe beating the next day, but have not been seen since.

Two In Tennessee

NASHVILLE, Tenn., July 12—(AP)—A crudely built wooden cross, seven feet tall, was burned late last night in front of an aged Negro's home near here.

It was the second cross burning of the night in the mid-state area. Another was ignited atop Reservoir Hill at Columbia, Tenn.

Police said the local cross-burning apparently was a "prank."

According to Lou Davis, 65-year-old Negro woman, a carload of men drove up to her place, propped the cross against the mailbox, splattered it with kerosene and set fire to it.

The Negro family was described by police as "law abiding and respectable."

Shells on KKK Cross Explode; Wound One

Daily Worker — New York, N.Y. — Jul. 6-14-49

KNOXVILLE, Tenn., June 13 (UP). — Shotgun shells attached to a burning cross exploded here Saturday night in the yard of a white couple who were said to have attended a Negro church. One man was wounded. Joe L. Hutchinson, in whose yard the demonstration occurred, said "I'm going where I please as long as the American flag flies over this country."

Hutchison was away at the time—attending church services—but his son-in-law, Joe O'Neal, said two men hopped out of a small truck, set up the cross and fired it, and sped away. In a few seconds the shotgun blasts were heard.

A. R. Miller, 29, a neighbor, had approached the emblem and several of the pellets struck him. He refused medical attention but a spectator said he was bleeding.

KKK THREAT 6-14-49

A note, typewritten on paper bearing a Ku Klux Klan seal, said the Hutchisons had been attending a Negro church although there were "five Holiness churches in Knoxville you and your family would be welcome to attend." It ended with a warning to "beware."

Hutchinson said he had been going to hear a Negro evangelist, and that more whites than Negroes were attending.

O'Neal said the men were apparently not disguised, but that they worked too swiftly for him to see who they were or get their license number. 6-14-49

Attorney general Hal Clements, Jr., who has fought the Ku Klux Klan here, said he hoped to get the men responsible and convict them under a law against conspiracy to inflict corporal punishment, in view of Miller's injuries.

Man, 70, Beaten by Masked Gang

Afro-American — Sat. 8-13-49 — Baltimore

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn. — A 70-year-old colored laborer was flogged here last Sunday by masked men as the climax of a series of terrorizing raids in recent weeks in the near-by Hixson community.

The latest victim, Charles Whiteside, was taken from his home by a group of six masked and robed men, dressed in garb resembling that of the Ku Klux Klan, driven to a cemetery in the vicinity, and lashed severely.

The latest atrocity was disclosed by a story appearing in the Chattanooga Times, which stated that several persons had witnessed the mobsters drag the aged man from his shanty before he crept back bruised and bleeding from their cruelties.

Meanwhile, Sheriff Frank Burns and Attorney General W. C. Smith both reported that they had received no complaints of the raids, but added that an investigation would be made if the people in the terror-ridden community asked their assistance.

Under the laws of Tennessee, it is a capital offense for anyone, under the disguise of a mask to assault any other person with a deadly weapon.

TWO LARGEST KLANS ARE MERGED IN SOUTH

New York Times — New York, N.Y. — Mon. 9-26-49

KNOXVILLE, Tenn., Sept. 25 (AP)—Merger of the South's two largest Ku Klux Klan groups was announced here last night. All other Klan organizations in the nation were invited to join the newly formed Associated Klans of America.

The announcement was made by Sam W. Roper of Atlanta, Ga., Imperial Wizard of the Association of Georgia Klans and successor to the late Dr. Samuel Green of Atlanta.

Mr. Roper said he was Imperial Wizard of the Associated Klans and that Dr. Lycurgus Spinks of Montgomery, Ala., had been chosen Imperial Chaplain and Public Relations Counselor.

Dr. Spinks has closed the headquarters of the recently formed New Knights of the Ku Klux Klan in Montgomery, Mr. Roper said. When Dr. Spinks' organization was formed, he said it numbered 265,000 members in many states. The entire organization has joined with the group now headed by Mr. Roper, who said "it is a Klan secret" when asked how many members the Associated Klans now has.

He and Dr. Spinks said the Federated Klans, headed by William Hugh Morris of Birmingham, Ala., split "wide open" in the past week and that half of the chapters had joined in the big merger.

New Klan Merger Is Announced

News-Age-Herald — Sun. 9-25-49

KNOXVILLE, Tenn., Sept. 24—(AP)—Merger of the South's two largest Ku Klux Klan groups was announced here Saturday night. All other Klan organizations in the nation were invited to join the newly-formed Associated Klans of America.

Columbia is Scene Of Cross Burning

Courier — Pittsburgh, Pa. — Sat. 8-13-49

COLUMBIA, Tenn.—Two crosses, on large and one small, were burned in Maury County Tuesday night.

The large cross, measuring 9 feet high and almost 6 feet along the crossbeams, flared up about 9:30 P. M. in an empty lot back of the Tennessee Knitting Mills. The blaze was in full view of fun-seekers at a carnival across the street.

Deputy Sheriffs Larce White and Ray Massey were on duty at the carnival and investigated the incident.

2 Sentenced Under Anti-KKK Statute

Advertiser — Thurs. 10-13-49

CHATTANOOGA, TENN., Oct. 12—(AP)—Two men who had been tried under Tennessee's anti-Ku-Klux Klan statutes were given workhouse sentences today after being convicted of violating the peace.

Former Deputy Herman Blair, 40, and William Hardin, 34, were convicted in the beating of several persons at the Dolly Pond Church of God. The beatings were carried out by hooded and masked men last May 7.

A fist fight broke out just outside the courtroom immediately after the trial. A warrant charging Tom Hardin, brother of one defendant, with assault and battery was sworn out by Mrs. Ed Allison. Mrs. Allison's son, Lee Edward, 22, testified for the state yesterday.

Allison said he was beaten with a blackjack when the hooded men interrupted evening services at the church. He identified Blair as his attacker.

Tennessee Governor:

'Cross Burnings Harm No Persons'

The Courier — Pittsburgh, Pa. — Sat. 7-30-49

NASHVILLE—A seven-foot high cross was burned Monday night in front of the Duncan Cullom home on River Road in Davidson County.

Constable Jim Marable of the Eighth District and Sgt. J. D. Cathey of the Belle Meade patrol said the cross, wrapped in burlap sacks and soaked with kerosene was blazing when they arrived at the farmhouse shortly after 10 P. M.

Ed Cullom, 35, a white farmer who notified officers, said the family was awakened by an automobile speeding away from the front gate. It blazed for nearly 30 minutes before it was extinguished.

Gov. Gordon Browning, when asked at a press conference to comment on recent cross burnings in the state, said he didn't "see any harm in a few cross burnings."

"There haven't been any floggings," he said. "If a man wants to burn a cross, I don't see what can be done about it."

2 Convicted Under Tennessee Anti-Klan Law

Constitution — Thurs. 10-13-49 — Atlanta, Ga.

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn.—(AP)—Two men, tried under Tennessee's anti-Ku Klux Klan statutes, were convicted of violating the peace today. They were given workhouse sentences.

Former Deputy Herman Blair, 40, and William Hardin, 34, were convicted in the beating of several persons at the Dolly Pond Church of God. The beatings were carried out by hooded and masked men last May.

A fist fight broke out just outside the courtroom immediately after the trial. A warrant charging Tom Hardin, brother of one defendant, with assault and battery was sworn out by Mrs. Ed Allison. Mrs. Allison's son, Lee Edward, 22, testified for the State Tuesday.

Allison said he was beaten with a blackjack when the hooded men interrupted evening services at the church. He identified Blair as his attacker.

Sentences of 11 months and 29 days in the workhouse and fines of $100 each were imposed on the defendants.

It was the first major trial under the State anti-Klan law here in recent years.

Against Masks

Jury Invokes Old Anti-Klan Law in South

Washington D.C. The Post Sun. *2-19-49*

Associated Press WIREPHOTO
C. R. TERRY

Chattanooga, Tenn., Feb. 18 (AP) The Hamilton County grand jury has cracked down against the wearing of masks in public by returning a nine-point indictment charging violations of the Tennessee 80-year-old anti-Ku Klux Klan law. *Sun. 2-19-49*

The indictment, returned yesterday, resulted in the arrest of C. R. Terry, 48-year-old grocery operator here.

Numerous demonstrations have been staged by hooded persons in the past several months here. Terry was released in $2000 bond.

The indictment, originating with the grand jury, stemmed from a raid by about 75 masked persons at a night club December 11. The owner of the club, indicted on a gambling charge, said the men warned him to "open the door or we'll knock it down." A warning shot was fired behind a newspaper reporter after he was told to leave the scene.

Three counts against Terry are classed as felonies and carry penalties of 10 to 20 years in the State penitentiary.

The other six counts charged misdemeanors, with penalties of a fine of not less than $100 nor more than $500, and a workhouse sentence up to one year for each.

Negro Scared From Home by Masked Men

Washington Post *Washington D.C.*

Chattanooga, Tenn., March 12 (AP).—A Negro told police today a story of how he escaped a group of masked men who gave him "one minute to open the door" to his trailer home near here last night.

George Wilson, 39, gave this version of what earlier had been reported by his wife as an abduction: *Jun-3-13-49*

The Wilsons heard a knock on the door. Opening it, he saw "a lot of men" wearing masks. He slammed the door and threw the bolt. A voice then made the "one minute" threat.

His wife began screaming. Frightened, he opened the door and darted through the group of men, two of whom were armed with guns. No shots were fired and the men did not follow.

Wilson hid in a quarry until morning when a fellow worker found him and escorted him to authorities.

Chief Deputy Sheriff Scott Swafford said he believed the hooded men "were only trying to frighten" Wilson and termed it a "prank." *Jun-3-13-49*

Wilson's wife was held in jail here for "protection."

Flogged Fireman Receives Warning

Montgomery Advertiser

CHATTANOOGA, TENN., April 5—(AP)—A Lookout Mountain fireman who reported he was taken from his home and flogged by unmasked men Saturday said today he has been warned against talking about the beating. *Montgomery Ala*

Theron V. Byrd, 25, said a telephone caller warned him "Forget what has happened to you or the next time it will be worse." *4-6-49*

Byrd said four men took him to a point just south of the Tennessee-Georgia line Saturday night, stripped off his clothing, tied him to a tree and beat him with what seemed to be leather straps.

At least five other incidents of flogging or terroism have been reported in this area in the past two months.

Klan Pastor Quits Pulpit Under Fire

Atlanta Constitution *Atlanta Georgia*

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn.—(INS) A Baptist minister in Chattanooga quit his church pulpit yesterday after members of his congregation objected to his espousal of the Ku Klux Klan.

The Rev. Hobart Linkous said following his resignation that: *Wed 2-2-49*

"I have always been frank to admit that I am a member of the Ku Klux Klan and my congregation has always known that I was affiliated with the Klan."

The Baptist minister had been attacked by former members of his congregation for an appearance in a Klan robe at a recent rally of the Chattanooga hooded group.

Meanwhile, the Methodist Ministers' Association of Chattanooga passed an official resolution denouncing the presence of Klan members into churches of any denomination.

The action followed a recent incident in which Kluxers entered a local Baptist church, causing the church organist to faint.

Her husband, the musical director of the church, later resigned his position.

Hooded Men Order Negro To Clear Out

Quarry Employe Darts Through Group, Makes Escape

Montgomery Ala. *Montgomery Advertiser*

CHATTANOOGA, TENN. March 12 —(AP)— George Wilson 39-year-old Negro, told police today he had been ordered by a group of masked men to take his trailer-home and "clearout" of the Hixon community near here.

Wilson said he eluded the men when they came to his door Friday night and gave him "one minute to open the door." He told police he darted through the armed group and hid all night in the rock quarry where he was employed as a driller.

His wife told officers Friday night he had been abducted. She was lodged in the jail "for protection." *Jun-3-13-49*

"They don't seem to want me here so I'm going to leave," Wilson said. He announced plans to take a job with the same company at Harriman, Tenn.

Chief Deputy Sheriff Scott Swafford said he believed the hooded men "were only trying to frighten" Wilson, who had been employed by the quarry company for 18 years. Swafford said Wilson came here last week from Cleveland, Tenn., and was the only Negro working at the quarry.

Concerning the incident Friday night, Wilson said:

"I heard somebody knock on the door and asked who it was. They answered with some funny name. I couldn't make out what it was.

"When I opened the door I saw at least three men. They had on masks and two of them had pistols. I slammed the door and locked it. My wife began screaming and I got scared.

"They told me they'd give me one minute to open the door, so I did."

Wilson said he opened the door "and tore out running." He said he hid in the rock quarry until this morning.

Asked if he was harmed, Wilson: "No, sir. They didn't even touch me I ran so fast."

No shots were fired and the men did not follow Wilson.

Man Seized By Hooded Hoodlums

Journal & Guide

Quarry Worker's Wife Ordered To Leave Home In Hour

Norfolk Va *Sat-3-19-49*

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn. — George Wilson, a quarry worker, was seized at his home Friday night by three hooded men. His wife reported the incident to Hamilton county officers last week.

Mrs. Anna Mae Wilson said the men abducted her husband, George, and ordered her to "clear out within an hour." At present she is being held in the Chattanooga jail "for protection."

She said the men came to the trailer-home near Chattanooga about 9 p. m., took her husband and left in an automobile.

Seven Negroes Report Beating By Klansmen

Atlanta Constitution *Atlanta Georgia*

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn.—(AP)—Seven Chattanooga Negroes reported last night they were flogged by a group of hooded Ku Klux Klansmen near Hooker, Ga., Saturday night. *Mon. 4-4-49*

Sheriff John Lynch, of Dade County, told the Chattanooga Times the Klansmen took the Negroes from his custody before the flogging and ordered him to leave.

Klan Grand Dragon Samuel Green, of Atlanta, could not be reached at once for comment. In the past, he has asserted that members of the order are forbidden to participate in acts of violence and lawlessness.

In another incident reported to police, Theron V. Byrd, Lookout Mountain fireman, said he was lured from his home Saturday night, taken about five miles into Georgia and flogged by four unmasked men.

Klansmen Flog Seven Negroes

Montgomery Advertiser *Montgomery Ala*

CHATTANOOGA, TENN., April 3.—(AP)—Seven Chattanooga Negroes reported tonight that they were flogged by a group of hooded Ku Klux Klansmen near Hooker, Ga., last night. *Mon. 4-4-49*

Sheriff John Lynch, of Dade County, told the Chattanooga Times that the Klansmen took the Negroes from his custody before the flogging, and ordered him to leave.

In another incident reported to police, Theron V. Byrd, Lookout Mountain fireman, said he was lured from his home last night, taken about five miles into Georgia, and flogged by four unmasked men.

Anti-Klan Law Invoked

Tennessee Grand Jury Indicts Grocer for Wearing Hood

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn., Feb. 18—(AP)—The Hamilton County Grand Jury has cracked down against the wearing of masks in public by returning a nine-point indictment charging violations of the Tennessee anti-Ku Klux Klan law. *New York Herald Tribune* *Sat. 2-19-49*

The indictment, returned yesterday, resulted in the arrest of C. R. Terry, forty-eight-year-old grocery operator here, and set up the first test in many years for the state's eighty-year-old law.

Officers said it was believed to be the first such arrest here, where numerous demonstrations have been staged by hooded persons in the last several months. Terry was released in $2,000 bond. The indictment, originating with the grand jury, stemmed from a raid by about seventy-five masked persons at a night club on Dec. 11.

Klan Hoodlumism

Commercial Appeal *Memphis Tenn* *4-5-49*

A number of recent Klan demonstrations in the Chattanooga area have aroused the thinking citizens of that section of the state and they are demanding that steps be taken, if they can be, to put a stop to them. The most recent occurred last Sunday when a group of night-shirted Klan hoodlums paid a surprise visit to a church. So outraged were they that at least 15 members of the congregation have since dropped their membership. The visit so frightened two women members that they fainted.

There is no place in Tennessee for the Klan—nor in the South. It is an anti-social organization at its best, and the evil things it represents are the antithesis of Christianity's teachings. When masked klansmen invade a place of worship for whatever purpose, they commit sacrilege which is intolerable.

Chattanooga Man Says Klan Beat Him

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn., Feb. 19—(AP)—A 29-year-old white steelworker claims that robed and masked men lashed him near his Lytle, Ga., home but Sheriff W. F. Hermon of nearby Lafayette, Ga., says he hasn't "heard anything about it."

Bill Howard, father of three children, reluctantly described the beating to a Chattanooga Times reporter. He said the hooded men accused him of abusing his mother, but his wife asserted "That's not so."

"They grabbed Bill and took him down the road," Mrs. Howard related, leaving welts and bruises on his body from about 30 licks with a leather belt.

Howard said 12 or 15 men flogged him Tuesday night but he had not reported it to Sheriff Hermon of Walker County, in which Lytle is located.

The sheriff said he had received no reports of the incident from other sources, but added:

"If he's been beaten and abused and will tell me about it, I sure will do all I can for him."

Howard said, "I'm scared. I want some protection. But what chance has a man got?"

Suspect Held In Tennessee Beating Case

Pistol-Whipped Man Identifies Worker As Attacker

CHATTANOOGA, TENN., April 7.—(AP)—A 35-year-old iron worker was arrested here today in connection with a pistol-whipping of a railroad worker here Tuesday night.

The pistol-whipping was the latest of seven incidents of terrorism reported in this area in recent weeks.

Police said J. C. Crowe, 35, was identified by Endricks Ellis as one of five unmasked men who attacked him at his home. Crowe, who lives in the same neighborhood as Ellis, was released on $5,000 bond after being charged with felonious assault.

Ellis, 38, had reported that five men pushed their way into his home after asking him to help them with "car trouble." He said they started beating him over the head with a pistol when he refused their commands for him to go with them.

Wife Calls For Help

Ellis said the men fled after his wife, who had been pushed into a corner, screamed for neighbors to call police. He added that he knew of no motive for the beating. He suffered five severe head lacerations.

Determined moves against terrorism were made by county and city officials after the beating.

Criminal Judge Raulston Schoolfield charged the Hamilton County grand jury today that its most important work is the investigation of terrorism reports.

'Flaunting Of Laws'

He termed the incidents "flagrant flaunting of our laws by men who conceive themselves to have the right to punish their fellow citizens.

Police Commissioner Roy Hyatt yesterday assigned a special squad of detectives to the Ellis case. He added that if he obtained evidence that any member of the fire or police departments belonged to the Ku Klux Klan, the member will be discharged.

The U. S. Department of Justice is investigating at least two of the incidents to determine whether federal laws were violated.

These cases are the flogging of seven Negroes who were taken from the custody of a sheriff at Hooker, Ga., and the beating of Theron V. Byrd, white Lookout Mountain fireman, who said he was taken across the Tennessee-Georgia line.

Cross Is Burned on Housing Site

Intimidation Scored by Sheriff in Tenn.

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—A 15-foot cross, visible for miles around, was burned last week on a site overlooking land owned by Dr. Needham R. Roberts, a dentist, who plans to build a housing project in the area.

The well-constructed cross perched atop an abandoned railroad overpass on the Antioch pike burned for more than an hour, while a large crowd of spectators watched.

The incident brought fire engines, State and county police, and several ambulances to the scene, which is adjacent to a white residential section.

Sheriff's Statement

Sheriff Garner Robinson said: "We'll investigate this to the limit. We are not going to have this sort of intimidation around here. If we find out who did it, we'll push it to the full limit the law allows us."

Fire Chief Sam Norton said the cross-burning was undoubtedly directed at the proposed housing project the colored dentist plans for members of his race. County patrolmen are investigating the fingers of a rubber glove found near the cross.

Clergyman Defends Klan Membership

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn.—(AP)—A Baptist minister who acknowledges membership in the Ku Klux Klan said yesterday he has not decided whether to accept re-election as pastor of the Olive Street Baptist Church here.

Several members of the church, including four deacons, withdrew their letters after the Rev. Hobart Linkous was re-named pastor Wednesday.

Mrs. Tom J. Boles, wife of the Chairman of the Board of Deacons, said her husband and three other deacons withdrew in protest. The board had supported another minister for pastor.

The Rev. J. C. Williamson, field executive of the Ocoee Baptist Association, said Wednesday night's congregational meeting "went off smoothly." He said about 60 persons attended the meeting and "when several members called for their letters they were granted without comment."

Linkous in a statement acknowledging his membership in the KKK, said:

". . . I wish further to publicly state that I am a member of the Klan. I believe in the principles of the organization. The Klan is for God and country, and as a minister of the Gospel I find nothing inconsistent with my membership therein and my work in the vineyard of the Lord. . . ."

HEAVY FLOGGING PENALTY SOUGHT

(The Associated Press)

Chattanooga, Tenn., May 14—Attorney-General W. Corry Smith says he will ask that the hooded men who attacked six white persons near here last Saturday be indicted under a state law carrying the death penalty.

Smith made the statement Thursday following the latest of seven incidents of recent violence by hooded men in this area.

At the same time Sheriff Frank Burns promised to redouble his efforts to identify the men who blackjacked the six men and boys Saturday.

Smith said he will ask the grand jury which is to be empaneled next week to indict the hooded night riders as soon as their identity is known.

(The Associated Press)

Columbia, S. C., May 14—A 76-year-old Negro farmer reported Thursday night that about 15 white men dragged him from his home, stripped his clothing from him, and beat him.

The Negro, Shelton Lorick, told reporters of The State, a Columbia newspaper, that unmasked intruders carried him by motor car to a wooded section about six miles from his home and pummeled him with their fists Sunday night.

He said he had made no report to police.

Lorick suggested two possible motives for the beating. About 10 years ago, he said, he shot a white man in a dispute over a chicken and during the ride Sunday night—One of the men accused him of "encouraging white people to come to his home."

Tenn. Klan Sets Off 'Booby Trap' Cross

KNOXVILLE, Tenn.—A fiery cross loaded with shotgun shells was ignited by a mob of hooded klansmen here Sunday night, resulting in gun shot injuries to A. R. Miller, white.

The cross was burned before the residence of Rev. and Mrs. Joe Hutchinson, white couple, to whom a nearby note was left, reading, "Stay away from Negro church services."

Hutchinson is a Church of God minister, and he and his wife have attended inter-racial church sessions of their denomination.

Klan Burns Cross In Columbia, Tenn.

COLUMBIA, Tenn.—A six-foot wooden cross blazed atop Reservoir Hill here last Wednesday night.

Emmett Fox, assistant police chief, said the cross was lighted at 9:30 and burned about ten minutes.

Sheriff Fleming said relations between whites and Negroes have been good since the nationally publicized riot of February, 1946.

Two Tennessee Men Indicted Under Old Anti-Klan Law

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn., June 10—(AP)—Two men have been indicted under an 80-year-old, anti-Ku Klux Klan statute. They are accused of terrorizing nearby Dolly Pond citizens while wearing robes and hoods.

County Patrolmen A. W. Bartlett and Melvin Burns last night arrested Homer Blair, 39, a former deputy sheriff, and William Hardin, 33, at their Dolly Pond homes.

* * *

THE TWO MEN were indicted yesterday by the Hamilton County Grand Jury, less than two months after a group of hooded men invaded the little community May 7, blackjacked several men and frightened others with pistol fire.

Sheriff Frank Burns ordered Blair held without bond. Hardin's bond was to be set later, he said.

Burns said Blair, a millwright, is accused of assault in disguise with a deadly weapon. The maximum sentence carries the death penalty. Both men, he said, are accused of violating the public peace.

BOTH MEN, the sheriff said, denied taking part in the alleged floggings and both said they were not members of the Klan.

Dist. Atty. Corry Smith has said he hopes to be able to "unmask" all of the hooded men who participated in the Dolly Pond foray.

Officials said a search is now going on for a "big man" who reportedly has led many of the 21 separate assaults listed within the past four months in the Chattanooga area.

THE BEATINGS have been carried out by bands of masked or unmasked men.

Seven Chattanooga Negroes were beaten by hooded men in a single incident at Hooker, Ga., 20 miles south of here, in April.

A sheriff, three deputies and a private citizen were indicted by a Dade County grand jury investigating the floggings. Their cases have not yet been tried.

The Dolly Pond assaults were carried out on the night of May 7. Three men and three teen-age boys said they were struck with blackjacks by a part of about 20 robed and masked men.

FBI Arrests KKK Witness

Advertiser

Birmingham Trial Figure Is Seized In Houston, Texas

Thurs. 11-17-49

HOUSTON, TEXAS, Nov. 16 (AP)— A witness in an Alabama trial of three persons accused of night riding has been arrested here by Federal Bureau of Investigation agents.

Ervin Leon Key, 28, entered a plea of guilty when arraigned on a charge of unlawful flight to avoid testifying as a state witness.

11-17-49

U. S. Commissioner W. C. Morris set bond at $1,000 to guarantee Key's appearance in Birmingham, Ala., before Dec. 5, at which time trial of the three persons will begin.

Montgomery Ala.

Bond papers that were being drawn call for Key's immediate return to Birmingham.

Fled Last June

The complaint, originally filed before U. S. Commissioner Lister Hill Jones at Birmingham, charged Key had fled jurisdiction of the Alabama state courts on or about June 8.

The federal charge claims Key fled "to avoid testifying as a state witness in cases pending against persons charged with flogging while masked."

FBI agents arrested Key last night in a Houston night club which he has been managing.

An FBI agent quoted Key as saying when arrested: "Boy, my life is in danger."

At Birmingham, a member of the circuit solicitor's staff asked newspapers there not to use the story on Key's arrest.

Prosecutor Declines Comment

Assistant Solicitor Cecil Deason, who prosecuted the first flogging trial there last month, declined comment on the arrest for publication.

Key was not listed among the dozen or so persons flogged in that area last spring. His name had not been publicly mentioned before in connection with the case.

Trials of three men are set for Dec. 5 at Birmingham. They are the Rev. R. C. Lyons, itinerant minister; Richard Lollar, reputed cyclops of the Adamsville, Ala., Klavern, and A. B. Carradine, a mechanic.

AFRO Causes Klan Ouster

Predicted Folding of Original KKK

Afro-American, Sat. 11-26-49, Va

SUFFOLK, Va.—John R. Hampton, founder of the Order of Knights of the Kavalier, has been ousted from the order because he invited elements of the Ku Klux Klan to switch allegiance to his organization.

J. P. Lewis, local member of the K of K's Board of Trustees, said Hampton had been expelled as the result of an article which appeared Oct. 1 in the Baltimore AFRO AMERICAN newspaper under Stetson Kennedy's by-line.

The AFRO news item said that Hampton had written letters to various groups of the Ku Klux Klan which predicted disintegration of the Klan and invited KKK members to join the Kavaliers.

Talking 'Too Much'

Asserting that Hampton has been talking "too much," Lewis insisted that the Kavaliers are not like the Klan.

Hampton, when queried about his ouster, said he still considers himself head of the Knights of the Kavaliers.

"I know where I stand, I will let Lewis go ahead and say what he wants," Hampton declared.

The charter of the Kavaliers, filed in Suffolk Circuit Court, lists it as a "fraternal and charitable organization" engaged in charitable and educational activities for the "social and moral welfare" of its members.

Chapters In Several States

According to Hampton, the Kavaliers have chapters in several States.

The AFRO article stated the new hate order has been granted a national corporate charter by Virginia and has succeeded in organizing units in five States and the District of Columbia in opposition to the leadership of Grand Dragon Samuel Roper of Atlanta.

Hampton was called the latest aspirant to the Imperial Wizardship of the KKK's Invisible Empire.

Lewis told newsmen that the Kavaliers took part in a demonstration last fall near Nurneyville, Va. in which a large cross was burned in a peanut field.

Denies Other Burnings

However, he denied that the organization had participated in other cross-burnings reported over the perid of a year and a half in Nansemond County, Va.

"The Kavaliers don't go around burning crosses here and there," he insisted. He did not explain why the cross was burned in the peanut field.

Members of the Kavaliers wear white robes similar to those worn by the KKK.

Kennedy, who wrote the article for the AFRO, is a former member of the Georgia Bureau of Investigation under the regime of former Governor Ellis Arnall.

Kavaliers Shun Klan Label

Baltimore, Sat. 12-17-49

Trustee Denies Rumor Group Is Terroristic

SUFFOLK, Va. (ANP) — J. P. Lewis, Suffolk businessman and trustee of the Knights of the Kavaliers Inc., last week said emphatically that this secret order is not an adjunct of the Ku Klux Klan and has never indulged in terrorism in any form.

The new Virginia secret organization has had a lot of adverse publicity. The secrecy surrounding the new group was broken when newspapers published the news over a year ago about the formation of a "Shore Patrol," which adhered to Ku Klux Klan principles.

Soon afterwards a spokesman for the group denied it had any Klan connections and denials have been forthcoming from some member of the group ever since.

Denies Terror Role

Lewis, a charter member of the Kavaliers, said the organization never staged any demonstrations to frighten colored people or any other group of people. It is purely a fraternal and charitable organization, he said, and is operated on a non-profit basis.

Lewis "spilled the beans" when he revealed some time ago in an interview with the local newspaper that John Roland Hampton, operator of the Modern Food Market, had been expelled from the organization because he had "been running his mouth too much."

His dismissal from the organization followed an AFRO expose on Oct. 1 of his invitation to members of the scattered Klan groups in Virginia to ally themselves with the Knights of the Kavaliers.

The AFRO, in an article by Stetson Kennedy, published a photostatic copy of such a letter of recruitment sent out by Hampton.

"Philanthropic Group"

Lewis related that "what we want is to build up an organization that people will be proud of. We don't want to go around scaring people half to death. We're not against colored people or against anybody." He intimated that the group is merely interested in charitbale work.

However, he admitted that some time ago, the Kavaliers held a demonstration near Nurneyville a few miles south of Suffolk, but insisted that it was only an initiation ceremony.

Secret Group Says It Is Not Against Group

12-15-49

Charitable Aims Stated For Its Membership

Atlanta, Ga.

SUFFOLK, Va. — (ANP)— J. P. Lewis, Suffolk business man and trustee of the Knights of the Kavaliers, Inc., said last week emphaticially that this secret order is not an adjunct of the Ku Klux Klan and has never indulged in terrorism in any form.

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Lewis related that "what we want is to build up an organization that people will be proud of. We don't want to go around scaring people half to death. We're not against Negroes or against anybody." He intimated that the group is merely interested in charitable work.

However, he admitted that some time ago the Kavaliers held a demonstration near Nurneyville a few miles south of Suffolk but insisted that it was only an initiation ceremony. He said the group is primarily interested in giving suppers and holding other benefit programs for charitable causes.

After Cross-Burning

Pittsburgh Courier Pittsburgh Pa Sat. 2-5-49

(Special to The Pittsburgh Courier)

RICHMOND, Va.—Inspectors of the Post Office Department and Richmond police are investigating threats received in the mails by J. W. Sweat, a public school teacher, whose home in North Richmond was the scene last week of a cross-burning.

One letter sent to Sweat, who lives with his wife at 2700 Barton Avenue, contained a bullet. It was mailed in Washington and the presence of the bullet was discovered at the Richmond Post Office. The letter was delivered to Sweat by a postal supervisor, and then turned over to the postal inspectors.

Sat. 2-5-49

MAILED THREATS

Another letter, mailed locally, contained newspaper clippings of a Ku Klux Klan initiation, an account of recent cross-burnings in Virginia, and slip of white paper on which the following message was printed:

"You are not smart."

The second letter was delivered through ordinary postal channels and was turned over to postal inspectors by Sweat, who is a teacher in the George Mason School. Sweat and his wife moved about a month ago into their home and are the only Negro residents of the block. Some other houses in the same block have been sold to Negroes who are awaiting possession before moving in.

Police Chief O. D. Garton and Major John M. Wright, superintendent of the Detective Division, said that the cross-burners were guilty of trespassing on Sweat's property and of violating the city's fire code. As for the letters, they are within the purview of the postal inspectors, Garton and Wright said.

COMMUNISTS PROTEST

Alice Burke, chairman of the Communist party in Virginia, took issue with the statements of the two police officials.

In a telegram to Garton, Miss Burke said, in part: "The perpetrators of this heinous crime must be sent to prison for long terms as (the) only way to stop this threat of force and violence by the Fascist-minded white supremacists."

Sat. 2-5-49

In a message to U. S. Attorney General Tom Clark, Miss Burke said: "This is premeditated murder and exposes (an) attempt to spread Ku Klux Klan and Fascist lynch terror to Richmond and (the) entire Nation."

In Atlanta, Klan officials said the organization has no branches in Virginia.

Holy Week Marred By Burning Of Cross Six Miles From Suffolk

Journal & Guide Norfolk, Virginia

SUFFOLK, Va. — The anti-climax to Holy Week in this little community was the burning of a wooden cross, 14 feet high with a six-foot cross beam in a field near Nurneyville, six miles from Suffolk, in Nansemond county. Sat. 4-23-49

About 35 persons in white robes participated in the ceremonies. The cross, wrapped in kerosene soaked burlap, was set afire about 9 p. m. Then the solemn rites began.

According to an eyewitness, the participants came to the scene in cars. The group was orderly and went about its business with religious fervor during the brief ceremonies.

It could not be learned from state police officers and County Sheriff Frank Culpepper whether the members of the crowd wore hoods over their heads.

LICENSE NUMBERS TAKEN

Investigating officers took the license numbers of several cars, pending investigation of the state code by Commonwealth's Attorney Paul L. Everett.

The section near Nurneyville is becoming a favored spot for cross burning, for twice before recently, crosses were burned in this vicinity. The first instance of cross burning was two years ago when colored people in Nansemond county were registering heavily to vote in an election in which William Lawrence was a candidate for election to the board of supervisors of the county. Sat. 4-23-49

A cross was burned in a field near a road where colored residents had to pass in going to the registrar's home to register. This did not stop the registering and Mr. Lawrence was elected to the board of supervisors to become the first member of his race to hold such a position in Virginia since the Reconstruction period.

7 Are Arrested In Cross-Burning At Richmond

Washington Post Washington, D.C.

Richmond, Va., April 21 (AP).—Seven white persons were arrested here tonight in the wake of a three-month probe of a cross-burning in the front yard of a Negro school teacher's home. Sat. 4-23-49

Three of the persons arrested were juveniles. Adults arrested were charged with being disorderly and destroying property. Juveniles were charged with delinquency for the same offense.

Police said the cross-burning occurred after the family of J. W. Sweat, Negro teacher at George Mason School, bought and moved into a house on Barton ave. At the time, he was the only Negro resident in the block.

Police listed those arrested as Sanford D. Smith, 18; Howard M. Pinchefsky, 18; Howard C. Ganzart, 18; James B. Walthall, 22, and three juveniles, all aged 16, all of Richmond.

KLAN LETTERS THREATEN TEACHER

California Voice Oakland, Calif.

RICHMOND, Va., Feb. 1—Mrs. J. W. Sweat, a Negro school teacher, was the recipient of two threatening letters from the KKK because her family moved into a newly-bought home in a so-called "white" neighborhood. One of the letters contained a bullet, and was the first of several letters received by home owners who have moved into the new community. Fri. 2-4-49

The threatening letters followed a cross burning in the Sweat family's front yard last Thursday and similar occurrence near Suffolk, a peanut growing center last Friday night. The Suffolk burning was said to be aimed against the organization of Negro peanut workers into the CIO-Food, Tobacco and Agricultural Workers Union. Six other instances of cross-burnings have been reported in the Richmond-Suffolk area of the state during the past year. 2-4-49

One of the KKK letters to Mrs. Sweat contained newspaper clipping describing a Klan initiation under a caption which stated: "Started in Georgia in 1915, the KKK spread widely and was variously anti-Negro, anti-Jewish and anti-Catholic." In the letter containing the bullet, there was a note enclosed with the criptic message saying: "You Are Not Smart."

KKK LETTERS THREATEN NEGRO TEACHER

RICHMOND, Va., Jan. 25.—A Negro school teacher yesterday received two threatening letters from the KKK—one of them containing a bullet—after her family moved into a newly-bought home in a so-called "white" neighborhood. Mrs. J. W. Sweat, recipient of the two threats, is the first of several Negro home owners to move into the new community. 1-26-49

The threats followed a cross-burning in the Sweat front yard last Thursday and a similar occurrence near Suffolk, a peanut growing center, last Friday night. The Suffolk burning was said to be aimed against the organization of Negro peanut workers into the CIO-Food, Tobacco and Agricultural Workers Union. Six other instances of crossburnings have been reported in the Richmond-Suffolk area of the state during the past year.

One of the KKK letters to Mrs. Sweat contained newspaper clipping describing a Klan initiation under a caption which stated: "Started in Georgia in 1915, the KKK spread widely and was variously anti-Negro, anti-Jewish and anti-Catholic." In the letter containing the bullet, there was a note enclosed with the cryptic message: "You Are Not Smart."

The Communist Party of Virginia, over the signature of its chairman Alice Burke,, protested in a telegram today to Attorney General Tom Clark and Richmond Chief of Police Garton, demanding action against the terrorists. The Communists warned against a recurrence of the Georgia Klan killing of the Negro Isiah Nixon, for having voted in the primaries last August.

The Progressive Party of Virginia issued a statement to the Richmond press denouncing the crossburnings and threats as "un-American acts designed to intimidate Negroes from seeking their rights as citizens," and added that "the Klan . . (is) frightened at the increased political activity of the Negroes in Richmond together with labor and other white progressives."

Norfolk Scene Of Fiery Cross

Flaming Ku Klux Klan Symbol Discovered In Bolling Brook

NORFOLK—A fiery cross was discovered burning in a vacant lot on Granby street, between Brackenridge avenue and Filbert street, shortly after 10 o'clock last Saturday night by residents of Bolling Brook section who notified the police.

The cross, a crudely constructed facsimile of the Ku Klux Klan's intimidator consisted of two boards, one by four inches, nailed together and covered with tar and other inflammable material. It was suspended in a small tree and the torch applied.

Among the first residents of Bolling Brook section to notice the flaming cross were Skipper Wright, McCoy Brooks, James Holmes, Ernest Holmes, and John Sutton, who were in the McCoy Confectionery directly in front of, and only a few paces from the spot where the cross burned.

In an interview with these men, Mr. Wright said, "We were in the confectionery a little after 10 o'clock and I happened to notice a light across the street in the vacant lot. I went to the door and looked out and saw a man leave, what I thought was a small brush fire, and get into an automobile that looked like a gray Mercury, late model. As the man drove off I could see that the blaze was taking the shape of a cross so I called the other persons in the confectionery and we all went over to investigate.

"As we neared the burning cross the same gray Mercury circled pass and one of the occupants hollered to us, it sounded like 'It better be here when we come back.'

POLICE CALLED

"We called the police at once and a police officer from Ocean View responded. We told him what we saw and he looked at the burnt cross. Just then that same gray car passed again and we pointed it out to the policeman from Ocean View who left to apprehend the driver. The policeman returned and said there was only a man and his wife in that car and they denied lighting the cross.

"Nearly the entire population of the Bolling Brook section remained awake until nearly daybreak not knowing what to expect for we were sure the cross burning was intended for us."

RACE RELATIONS AMICABLE

The Rev. T. A. White, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Bolling Brook, in an interview with a Guide representative said he was confident the cross was not intended to intimidate the people of Bolling Brook but was burned by persons living in the Talbot Park section in protest to the building of a Masonic Club, white, on the property where the cross was discovered. "We have gotten along nicely with our white neighbors," said Rev. Mr. White, "and there has been no semblance of any kind of disagreements that would cause us to think the burning of a cross, even though placed very close to our homes, was intended to intimidate or frighten us."

The charred remains of the cross were still standing late Sunday morning only a few feet from the rear entrance of the Talbot Park Baptist Church (white) as the church's congregation assembled for the Sunday morning service.

Negro Tenant Asks Guard in Cross Burning

Washington Post Washington, D.C. Sat-1-22-49

Richmond, Va., Jan. 21 (AP).—A school teacher who recently became the only Negro tenant in a block of houses here has appealed for police protection after the burning of a cross in his front yard last night.

The teacher is J. M. Sweat, member of the faculty of George Mason School, who lives at 2700 Barton ave.

Sweat said he and his wife, a student at Virginia Union University, were upstairs in their house last night and knew nothing of the cross-burning until a neighbor rang their doorbell.

Sweat described the cross as about 5 feet high, covered with burlap rags soaked in oil.

"I knew such things happened during the last century," Mrs. Sweat said, "but I didn't know there were any Ku Klux Klaners in Richmond now. It looks like a KKK act."

She said she had no idea who could have been responsible.

Sweat extinguished the cross' flames and reported the incident. Second District police officers have instructed patrolmen in the area to pay special attention to activities in the block.

It was reported other houses now occupied by whites in the block have been purchased by Negroes who expect to move in soon. *Sat-1-22-49*

Cross Burned At Virginia Negro's Store

Washington Post Washington, D.C.

Suffolk, Va., Jan. 22 (AP).—Virginia's seventh cross-burning in the past year was reported today from Nansemond County, less than 48 hours after a cross was burned in the front yard of a Negro homeowner in residential Richmond.

A wooden cross 6 feet tall was lit near Driver, Va., last night in front of a store owned by a Negro, Alvester Drake.

Cross in Richmond

Thursday night a 5-foot cross was burned on the lawn of J. M. Sweat, Negro schoolteacher, who recently had moved into a home on Barton ave. in Richmond. Other houses on the block are occupied by whites.

J. Frank Culpepper, Nansemond County sheriff, said only "a few persons" were reported to have burned the cross at Drake's store.

Sheriff Culpepper said Drake told him that "four men got out of two cars. They were not masked. They wore regular clothes—no robes. After they got out of their cars, they set the cross on fire and left."

Sweat appealed to police for protection after the cross-burning. He said he and his wife, a student at Virginia Union University here, knew nothing of the incident until a neighbor rang their doorbell.

'Looks Like Ku Klux'

Mrs. Sweat said the incident "looks like a Ku Klux Klan act." Sweat extinguished the flames.

Some 150 persons were reported by police to have participated last month in the cross-burning near Whaleyville, on the farm of County Fire Warden N. H. Bradshaw. Participants were robed and masked.

Four crosses were burned last spring on highways leading into Suffolk, also in Nansemond County.

Some sources have expressed the opinion that the cross-burnings, especially the Whaleyville affair, were Ku Klux Klan activities. *Sun-1-23-49*

But in Atlanta, KKK Grand Dragon Samuel Green said that the Klan "played no part" in the incidents and had no member groups in Virginia.

The Riehmond cross-burnng was denounced last night by W. H. Reavis, treasurer of the Progressive Party of Richmond, as "an un-American act, designed to intimidate Negroes from seeking their rights as citizens."

"The Klan elements who participated in and inspired this terrorist act fear the growing movement of the Negro people for their full constitutional rights and for an end to un-American practices of discrimination and segregation," Reavis' statement said.

The first Richmond cross-burning occurred on March 23 of last year on the lawn of the Robert Fulton School.

Onlookers reported seeing persons clad in sheets running back and forth behind the burning cross during the 20 minutes that it was afire that night.

KLAN LETTERS THREATEN TEACHER

California Voice Oakland California

RICHMOND, Va. Feb. 1—Mrs. J. W. Sweat, a Negro school teacher, was the recipient of two threatening letters from the KKK because her family moved into a newly-bought home in a so-called "white" neighborhood. One of the letters contained a bullet, and was the first of several letters received by home owners who have moved into the new community.

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Let's Stamp It Out

(From The Talladega Daily Home)

Birmingham News

The Ku Klux Klan added a particularly offensive touch to its long list of indecencies the other night when it rode in armed and hooded procession through the streets of Opelika. *Tues 1-18-49*

Is it not a thing to make the blood boil, this picture of masked night riders in automobiles from which protruded the clearly recognizable barrels of rifles? Do we want such things in Alabama? *Birmingham Ala.*

Toward whom was their silent intimidation directed? Alabama Negroes, who have behaved themselves magnificently in the present time of delicate racial relationships, deserve nothing like this. Was the Klan riding to scare Jews or Catholics—or was their gun-toting expedition simply to give public notice that a cancer is threatening our social system once again.

Alabama knows that the cancer is here. Alabama should and will take care of the situation. As soon as the Legislature assembles in May, measures should be introduced to prohibit by law the masking of faces by any order or individual.

To go about at night with masked face and carrying a gun should be made a legal felony as it is now a moral one.

A Klan Rides Again in Alabama; Reporter Makes His Own Inquiry

Herald Tribune Tues 2-22-49

3 Crosses Burned in Talladega Area; Folsom Is Sending Plainclothesmen, No Arrests Reported

New York, N.Y.

By Bert Andrews

WASHINGTON, Feb. 21.—A robed and hooded gang resembling the Ku-Klux Klan is riding again in Alabama, it was revealed today in a brief news dispatch, and the disclosure led to a survey by telephone which turned up the full story of the band's terrorism—and the fact that in all probability nothing will be done ab[illegible]

Among the highlights developed in conversations with members of Congress in Washington and officials and individuals in Alabama were these:

The night riders, seeking to regulate the behavior of some of their fellow citizens, planted fiery crosses outside three homes in the Talladega area on Saturday night.

A twelve-year-old boy defied the gang, some of whom were armed, by kicking down the cross placed in his yard and dousing it in a water hole.

The boy's father and a neighbor began to take license numbers of the thirty-odd cars in which the marauders rode—and the marauders quickly rode away. Today the father said: "I hope they come back. I've got me a big .38, and I'l mew 'em down."

The boy's mother who has three other children, was just home from a major operation. She suffered a relapse and, according to her husband, is "hurting mighty bad again."

Alabama officials are investigating, but haven't arrested anybody.

Some of Alabama's delegation in Congress were loathe to discuss the case or the Klan and its works. Others denounced the Klan by name for taking the law into its own hands.

The quest for material for the history of the case was begun after as Associated Press dispatch from Talladega gave news of two of the cross-burnings.

The dispatch said the hooded men first planted a burning cross in front of the home of Richard Drake. Owen Drake, twelve, pulled it down. His father told Sheriff Earl Howell, of Talladega County, that one of the hooded men pointed at pistol at him when he walked up to the long line of cars, and that a little later the caravan drove away.

Widowed Mother of 3 Visited

The dispatch added that the men visited the neighborhood of Mrs. Daisy Inez Lewis, widowed mother of three children. It quoted Mrs. Lewis as saying that the auto horns began blowing and the lights blinking. "Next thing I knew, there was a cross burning in the front yard."

The dispatch quoted Governor James E. Folsom as saying he would assign state highway patrolmen to the inquiry.

There were no details in the dispatch as to motives or reactions, and so this reporter made telephone calls beginning with one to Tom Abernethy, editor of "The Talladega Home," a daily newspaper of 2,500 circulation which serves that town of 15,000.

"I see you had a little hooded trouble," Mr. Abernethy was told.

"Yes, it seems to me that we can generate more trouble than anybody," Mr. Abernethy said. "Suppose I tell you the chronological story. Saturday night they rode through the streets of Talladega. They burned a cross here in front of the home of a Mrs. May Reed. I would estimate there were about thirty cars in the caravan."

"I went down to where they were burning the cross. It so happened that my automobile was caught where I couldn't get by, and I was right at the scene. A number of others were in the car with me. We were not molested in any way—were not even questioned. *Tues 2-22-49*

Not Sure "Which Klan"

"Now, after that I began to get wild reports from Mumford about them having been there that night too. So I went up there on Sunday. Sheriff Earl Howell had talked to Drake's neighbor, Dial Carter. Carter told the Sheriff that one Klansman who had a gun in his hand said, "I'll cut you down."

Here Mr. Abernethy interrupted himself to explain: "When I say klansman, I don't know whether they were wearing Klan robes or not. They were hooded and robed.

though. . . . You know, there are apparently two Klans functioning down here. Evans's outfit over in Georgia is one Klan, and then there's another one. These people had the license tags on the cars half covered."

Mr. Abernethy was asked if there were any clews as to why the three homes were selected for the cross-planting.

"Well, the morning Birmingham

newspaper has a copy of the letter which the Drakes received," he said. "It was postmarked Jan. 20. This was three days after a motorcade of men had paraded past their house on Jan. 17. They didn't stop, and Mrs. Drake thought nothing about it."

"Warning" to Mrs. Drake

Mr. Abernethy read the letter:

"Dear Madam. This little parade by your house last Monday night was not put on just for show. Take warning at this advice. Keep the man who was there and other men away from your home after dark. Look after your children and keep them in chool and devote a little more time to your husband and his interests. This is friendly advice. Please accept it as such, because the next visit will have a different meaning."

The letter was signed: "A friend."

"I'm using A. P. on the story," Mr. Abernethy said. "I wouldn't want you to get the idea that we are dodging the story, because we're not. We're covering it, but you see we've got a one-man staff. I wouldn't want you to get the idea that there is any wild community excitement or anything like that because there isn't.

"The Klan has been out several times in the past few months but as I recall it this is the first time they have been around anybody's home or anything like that. What's going to come out of it, I don't know. The Sheriff is a pretty determined individual. He says he is going to stop and investigate any car operating with license tags obscured or covered, and he has given the same instructions to the deputy sheriff.

"You see, our licenses are so designated that the first two numbers locate the county. Several of them I saw in Talladega had covered the first two numbers. They all looked to me like Alabama tags."

A Phone Call to Drake

A telephone call was made to Mr. Drake. He was reached in Birmingham, where he works for the Tennessee Coal and Iron Railroad Company. It is about ninety miles from his Mumford home, and he drives home twice a week. On the job, he drives a Diesel truck. He is thirty-nine. His wife, Mrs. Helen Frances Drake, is twenty-nine. Their children are: Owen, twelve; Jeanette Frances, eleven; Brenda Marion, five, and Richard Edgar, two.

"I've got as true a wife as any man ever had," Mr. Drake said. "And I have a very personal friend that somebody in that outfit got a grudge agoinst. He's Howard Bigby. He's forty-two and he's as good a friend as I've anywhere. I'd as soon trust him as anybody that I know of to come over there. She needs all the help she can get.

"Well, the other night the children were all at a movie. It was raining and she called him up and asked him to bring them home. He did. He just brought them home and turned around and went on back. And any time he did come over it was only to see Judy Baxtre, the girl we had staying with us. She's around twenty-five. She stayed with us until a few days ago."

Both Received Letters

Mr. Drake said both his wife and Mr. Bigby received letters signed: "A friend."

"They accused my wife of not sending my children to school," Mr. Drake said. "But God knows that anybody can look on their records and see that they've been there every day except the days they wer sick. And what they suggested about Bigby, well, they're all wet."

Mr. Drake said that "as a matter of fact" Mr. Bigby was at his home when the hooded men drove up.

"I went by on Saturday night and picked him up and asked him to come over for a little while and we'd have a card game," Mr. Drake said. "He works at the Lee Brothers foundry in Mumford, and he's a longtime friend of mine.

"So about 8:30 Saturday night this long line of cars comes up and they plant the cross. My boy, he run out there and kicked the cross down and towed it away and put water on it. He's in the sixth grade. Was he scared? Sure, he was. But he acted quick.

Mr. Drake said that he went out, walked up to one of the cars and asked what the trouble was.

"A man pointed a pistol at me and said, 'Up front, buddy.' I walked up front and asked the man in the fron tcar. He didn't say anything. Just then Dial Carter—he runs a little store there—drove up. Carter said, 'Let's get these tag numbers.'

"They told him they'd mow him down or cut him down. They drwaed their guns on several other people in other cars and turned them around and told them to go back. He didn't pay attention, and when he sai dto get the tag numbers, they began to move."

"Did it scare you and your wife?"

"It didn't scare me in the least," Mr. Drake said. "It just made me so mad. But it sure did scare my wife and little children nearly to death. I hope they try it again. I've got a big .38. I'll mow 'em down."

Mr. Drake said his wife became hysterical at the cross-burning. "I had to have the doctor with her that night," he said. "She's hurting mighty bad again."

"What is Sheriff Howell going to do about it?"

"I guess," said Mr. Drake, "that he is investigating as much as he can. They had the county numbers covered up. They were all in Klan uniforms, even though I didn't see any Klan insignia. I couldn't say for sure, but I think I know some of them."

Sheriff Howell said he had heard that Governor Folsom was sending some investigators down from the capital in Montgomery but that he hadn't seen them. "I'm willing to co-operate with any agency in stopping any law violation," he said. "It's not too bad. I think it will blow over. Course there's no way of identifying who it was that rode. The general assumption is that it's the Klan. I know there's nothing to the stuff about the Drakes not sending their children to school. We've prosecuted several people in this county for not sending their children to school, but she wasn't one of them."

Mrs. Lewis, the Mumford widow in front of whose home a cross was planted, could not be reached by telephone. Nor could Mrs. Reed, of Talladega, the other woman whose home was a target. A woman who identified herself as Mrs. Reed's married daughter said she was mystified over the choice of her mother's home by the night riders.

"It surely did scare her," the daughter said. "There was never any warning or anything."

No Report Made to Police

"Have you made any complaint to the police?" she was asked.

"Well, no, I don't think it would do any good," she replied.

"They wouldn't take any action?"

"Why, certainly not."

The daughter said her mother was thirty-nine, and added: "I'm twenty-three. I've been married and have a child. She keeps my child while I work."

Governor Folsom's secretary, a Mr. Finney, said: "The Governor has ordered plain-clothes investigators to Talladega and Mumford. It is my understanding that any hooded organization is outlawed in the state. The Governor is very much against anything of this kind. He feels very strongly about it."

Telephone calls were made to members of the Alabama delegation in Congress. Senator Lister Hill said: "It couldn't have been a very courageous mob if a twelve-year-old boy could scare it away." He said he would not comment further until he had learned more of the facts.

Representative Sam Hobbs, whose district includes Talladega, knew none of the details and did not want to comment. His associates said, however, that he had always fought the Klan and that he would look into the case.

Calls for Punishment

Representative George M. Grant said: "I'm against the Klan or any other organization taking the law into its own hands. If anyone has violated the law they should be punished."

Representative Robert E. Jones jr. said there had been no signs of the Klan in his district for many years. His district is in northern Alabama. "I'm opposed to any organization taking the law into its own hands e ven if it's for a good purpose," he said.

Representative Albert Rains said: "The Klan is not very active, if at all, in my district. That so-called 'invisible government' is just outlawism."

Representative Laurie C. Battle, Democrat, said that there had been no Klan activities in his district in recent times, and that so far as he knew they did not exercise any political pressure. "I don't know who's klansman and who isn't," he said. "Anyway I'm against extra-legal activities."

Cross Burned At Home Of Rape Suspect

Staff Correspondence

NEWPORT NEWS, Va.—Two flaming crosses symbols of the Ku Klux Klan, appeared in a remote section of Warwick county on the night of Sept. 5, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. S. Diggs, whose 21-year-old son, Cupid, is being held by county officials on a charge of raping a Hilton Village white woman.

Mr. and Mrs. Diggs live on Deep Creek road, just off route 60, about 13 miles from Newport News. They were awakened about 11:55 p. m. on the night of the cross burning by a shower of stones that struck the house, and the sounds of repeated gun fire.

Upon investigation, they found two flaming crosses about three feet high, one directly in front of their home, and the other across the road in front of their son's home.

AUTOS DISAPPEAR

From the light cast by the flames, they could see several automobiles disappearing into the darkness, but were unable to identify any of the drivers.

In commenting on the incident, Mrs. Diggs said that she and her husband had lived in that section of the county nearly all of their lives and are well known in the community, in which there are not more than a half dozen colored families.

The son was taken into custody on Sept. 2 at White's Recreation Center on Blount Point Road, and held as the man who had entered the home of the Hilton Village woman earlier in the evening and raped her while her husband visited neighbors next door.

POLICE DOUBLED

Chief of Police Woody of Warwick county stated that he had doubled police protection in the area of the home since he knew that Mr. and Mrs. Diggs were not in any way connected with the crime in question, and should be given all protection necessary.

It was not learned what steps, if any, will be taken by the county authorities in investigating the incident. So far, Chief Woody has repeated his pledge to offer the family all necessary protection.

Tuskegee Civic Group Favors Congressional Probe Of Klan

Daily World
Atlanta, Ga.

WASHINGTON — (ANP) — The Tuskegee Civic association came out in support of a congressional probe of the recent activities of the Ku Klux Klan in Alabama where terrorism has not hit the Negro but white persons as well.

In the meantime, white southerners and representatives spoke against the congressional investigations. The Alabama state legislature which recently passed a law banning masks in public passed a joint resolution denouncing federal action.

Thu. 7-7-49

Speaking of Alabama's action, the Tuskegee group's statement signed by C. A. Walwyn, president and William P. Mitchell, secretary, said:

"It is quite apparent now that certain elements in Alabama are willing to sacrifice democracy in order to perpetuate segregation.... The Tuskegee civic association is unequivocably opposed to segregation or assigning the Negro to the position of a second class citizen.

SEEK TRUMAN TO STAND

"We unanimously call upon President Truman to stand by his orders and directives stamping out these un-American actions such as we condemn, any contrary position taken would in these times of mob violence be detrimental to the preservation of our democracy."

7-7-49

Clancy E. Lake, Birmingham News reporter, objected to action by Congress. He said of action now being taken in Alabama:

"I am satisfied that everything is being done that is humanly possible to end these disturbances."

Rep. Battle called the whole affair a "political maneuver intended to enhance President Truman's civil rights program."